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THE TZAR'S HEAD CLERK.

SELDOM has the gigantic monolith of granite which looks down upon the official residence of Russian Foreign Ministers witnessed a pleasanter spectacle than that which was seen yesterday at the jubilee of M. DE GIERS. All the morning the great stony wilderness that divides the Foreign Office from the Winter Palace was alive with deputations bearing addresses and presents and congratulations to the statesman who yesterday completed fifty years of faithful service in the Russian Administration. The Russian Foreign Office is not so luxuriously furnished as that of France, but the apartments are stately and magnificent, and the sanctum of the Minister where M. DE GIERS received in turn the congratulations of his colleagues and of the representatives of the other Powers is a cosier room than that in which M. GOBLET receives his visitors on the Quai d'Orsay. The portraits of twenty Foreign Ministers of Russia looked down in silence from the walls upon the successive deputations who came to congratulate M. DE GIERS, and the modest and retiring Minister probably felt somewhat embarrassed by the eulogies of which he was the subject. We can imagine the portraits of NESSELRODE and GORTSCHAKOFF which hang immediately over his chair smiling sardonically as they listened to the felicitations of the Ambassadors who came bearing a gold inkstand with his monogram in diamonds, as a tribute to the Minister who had never made a war, and whose proudest boast is that he has done a good deal for the preservation of peace. "No doubt," his predecessor might sneer, "he has deserved well of Europe, but for Russia what has he done? It is not so clear." But the sneer would be unjust.

M. DE GIERS is not a genius, and he knows it. He is a humble, sensible, honest man who never told a lie or broke his word. He has no ambition but to be the trusted head clerk of the Emperor, and to be his zealous servant in maintaining the general peace. He is a somewhat drab and hum-drum figure beside his more brilliant rivals. But the TZAR does not want a dashing Foreign Secretary, who keeps Russia *en evidence* everywhere, who puts a finger in every pie, and whose one preoccupation is to remind the world of his existence. What ALEXANDER III. wants at the Russian Foreign Office is a man who will never deceive him, who is absolutely loyal without any *arrière pensée* concerning his own personality, and who will bring all the garnered lore of long experience at the Foreign Office to inform the Imperial mind. Alike by his qualities and his defects, M. DE GIERS is an ideal Foreign Minister for the peace-keeper of Europe. General IGNATIEFF is undoubtedly a much stronger man, and if the TZAR wanted to adopt a forward foreign policy he would find no abler agent than the former Ambassador at Constantinople. But so long as the TZAR persists in pursuing a policy of peace and avoiding anything that may jar on the highly-strung nerves of Europe, he cannot do better than stick to M. DE GIERS.

The *Standard*, in an otherwise intelligent article this morning, says that M. DE GIERS "has not, of course, pretended to stand in "the way of the military preparations which constitute the menace; "but he has shown marvellous tact in mitigating, by diplomatic "means, their provocative effect." Now would the *Standard* but be good enough to explain what military preparations there have been made in Russia constituting any menace to the general peace which M. DE GIERS could have stood in the way of? The remark is due to the persistency with which the cock-and-bull stories of the Reptile press linger in the public mind. If the *Standard* will but look at the figures of the military expenditure of Russia since the TZAR began his reign it will see how absurd it is to talk in this fashion of the military faction. Russia is the only great power which in the last eight years has reduced its military budget, and has incurred no exceptional expenditure for military purposes. Every other Power has increased its expenditure on powder, on shot, and soldiers since 1881, and Russia's nearest neighbours have raised loans of many millions for strengthening their military position. Russia alone has reduced its military budget, and only this year the TZAR refused peremptorily to allow the extra expenditure which his soldiers declared to be absolutely necessary to place his frontiers in an adequate posture of defence.

The continuity of Russian officialism is illustrated by the jubilee of M. DE GIERS as well as the value which the TZAR attaches to an honest man. The Russians indeed carry the principle of continuity to a dangerous extreme. The long years during which that senile reprobate GORTSCHAKOFF was allowed to discredit the policy and injure the interests of Russia constitute a standing reminder of the danger of permitting age and long service a precedence which should be conceded to capacity and character alone. But M. DE GIERS is not like Prince GORTSCHAKOFF. No one who has had the privilege of meeting him in friendly conversation would take him for an old man. Nor would you suspect that it was half a century since he entered the service of the TZAR. So far as physical vigour and intellectual alertness are concerned there is no reason why M DE GIERS should not continue to be the TZAR'S head clerk for many a long year to come.

HOW TO BECOME AN ORATOR.—II.

HINTS FROM MANY PULPITS.

IN the present article we give the results of an appeal to some of the most celebrated of living preachers in the various Churches. So much, indeed, depends in effective preaching on personal idiosyncrasy that some of the best preachers have found themselves unable to give any detailed advice to others. "As I really have no special mode of preparing for public speaking," writes one eloquent Prelate, "and as I believe that each speaker must, if he is to be effective, follow his own instincts in the matter of speaking, I have nothing useful to say. I know of no better rule for public utterance of all kinds than the well-known one: 'Have something to say when you get up; sit down when you have said it.' All else is matter of individual idiosyncrasy and habit."

The tenor of Canon Liddon's reply is not very different. "I could not add anything of value," he says, "to the very sensible advice which Mr. Bright gives. A man who feels, not that he has to say something, but that he has something to say, has first of all to get his general thought into something like order, and then to consider how he will express himself on critical points. The rest may well be left to the impulse of the moment."

Cardinal Manning, when asked some years ago for a word of advice by one who was suddenly called upon, without previous experience, to address large audiences, replied: "Know what you have to say, and forget yourself. Business first, and no second thoughts"—advice which is both terse and to the point.

THE REV. W. HAY AITKEN.

The next contribution to the subject is from one of the most eloquent "missioners" in the Church. It is followed by others from ministers not less distinguished as public speakers and preachers in their several denominations.

I willingly respond to your kind desire that I should offer a few remarks on the subject of public speaking. As a reference to methods personally adopted seems to be desired, I may say that, though I have never read a sermon from the pulpit, I have for some time past written at least one sermon a month for publication, and I have found that this habit tends to promote accuracy both of thought and expression and to check repetition and discursiveness, and enables one the better to guard against a slipshod and slovenly style of utterance. I have never, however, attempted to commit my written sermons to memory, and were I able to do so, which I am not, I question whether my effusiveness as a speaker would be increased by the adoption of that method. My custom is to think out the subject as carefully as I can beforehand and then write down my headings on half a sheet of note-paper. This I always take with me in my Bible and look it over carefully during the singing of the last hymn, after which I close the book and never glance at my notes while speaking. In preparing these brief notes I am most careful to endeavour so to arrange my ideas that each may suggest its successor. I believe that herein lies one great secret of fluent extempore speech. If the principle of the association of ideas be not carefully acted upon, we need not be surprised at oratorical failure. For suitable words in which to clothe the thoughts thus ready to hand it is my habit to trust to "the utterances that may be given me;" only rarely, when I have to deal with matters of some intricacy requiring great accuracy of statement, do I run over in my mind beforehand the words which I think will best express what I have to convey, and even then I do not learn them off by heart.

In comparing the three modes of public utterance referred to in Mr. Cheesman's letter to Mr. Bright, I should be disposed to say that each has its own province. Were I entrusted with the discussion of abstruse questions of philosophy or theology in a series of Bampton Lectures, I do not think I should attempt to emulate the brilliant exploits of the gifted Bishop of Ripon—the only Bampton Lecturer I ever

heard of who did not read. Were my object to fill the rôle of what is called "a popular preacher," and so attract cultured and perhaps fastidious hearers by the beauty of my diction and the purity of my style (hoping, we will charitably suppose, to use the enormous personal influence that may thus be acquired for the furtherance of the highest ends), I should write my sermons out in full, polish and finish them with all possible care and pains, and then commit them, were I able to do so, to memory (and I daresay the faculty of doing this could be acquired by practice). But if, again, I aimed at moving men's hearts and stirring them to definite moral action, setting them thinking rather about the thing said than about the man who says it, I should adopt the method which Mr. Bright says he employs, and which in his case has proved so pre-eminently effective. True, when one speaks thus it is hardly possible to avoid a certain ruggedness of style; and a verbatim report by a really competent stenographer (if such a being exists) may cause humiliation and annoyance; but it may well be questioned whether such blemishes really detract from the effectiveness of the speech; perhaps they may even, to some extent, enhance it, because they convey to the hearer the idea of naturalness and reality. It is felt that the man is trying to say what is on his heart, rather than smoothly and glibly uttering what he has committed to his mind.

Were I giving advice to a young preacher (I speak of pulpit oratory, as it is with that of course that I have had most experience), I should be disposed to say:—

1. Never preach merely for preaching's sake. Better read a homily. Make up your mind what practical purpose you intend to answer by your sermon, and shape your means accordingly. If you aim at nothing you are sure to score a bull's-eye. Alas! how many such are scored in the pulpits of our land?

2. Having determined *why* you are going to speak, make up your mind next what you are going to speak—that is to say, having your object well in view, select your subject, and as a rule let the subject indicate the text rather than the text the subject. The inversion of this order leads to much pointless talk. A man gets hold of a text which perhaps suggests half a dozen different subjects, and goes struggling first after one and then after another until he wearies the patience of his audience and never seems even to attempt to compass any object at all. I am persuaded that the habit of invariably preaching from a text has created in some respects an injurious influence upon us preachers. Next I would say, having made up your mind as to object and subject and text, spare no pains in the arrangement of your ideas. If these present themselves to your mind in a casual way and without any obvious connection jot them down on a slip of paper, but do not introduce them into your notes until you are satisfied as to the place they ought to occupy. You may perhaps cover your slip of paper with jottings before you write a line; then will come a careful sorting: some of these ideas may have to be omitted, and all of them methodically arranged so as to bear upon your subject and contribute to the attainment of your object. I would further press upon any to whom my advice was acceptable the importance of well chosen and forcible illustrations. It is well that every man who wishes to be a speaker should keep a commonplace book, and be always on the look out for fresh contributions to its pages. A good illustration, whether anecdotal or otherwise, will often carry home an important point "where truth in closest words shall fail." Nor let us, because we have to speak of the sanctities of religion, refuse to recognize the place of humour in public speaking. I notice, almost all (there are one or two exceptions) our greatest preachers, and above all the preachers who move men most, are occasionally humorous, and herein lies one great secret of the influence they exercise. So long as you don't allow your humour to run away with you, you will find that it very powerfully contributes to the serious purpose of your discourse, particularly by placing you *en rapport* with your audience, and by quickening both their sympathies and their attention. Then I would say, when you come to the delivery of your prepared thoughts, seek above everything else to be perfectly natural, in voice, in manner, in language. Speak as you would talk, only louder and with more careful distinctness. It is here that most speakers go more or less wrong. There is, I observe, a parliamentary intonation, and an Oxford intonation, and a Catholic intonation, and an Evangelical intonation, and most certainly a Presbyterian intonation and a Wesleyan intonation. Now, all these departures from nature mean loss of power, for it is nature that appeals most forcibly to nature, while it is not in nature to respond to an affectation. Then again, I would say, though it may seem to involve a paradox, endeavour to feel at your ease; don't examine the rafters of the roof or the book-board of the pulpit: look into the human faces that are turned towards you as you would look into the face of your friend over the dinner table, and try and feel on friendly terms with them all the more because you may have some not very pleasant things to say. And begin with the head and work your way to the heart. While it is mainly your brain that is working, probably you will only be reaching the heads of your audience, but when your own heart begins to stir within don't repress it: let your heart flow forth in your words, and ere they know what is happening their hearts will be melting too.

THE REV. HUGH PRICE HUGHES (Wesleyan).

I am surprised that you should ask my opinion, and I must disclaim any authority upon the subject; but as you do ask me I can only say that for many years I have acted upon the plan described by Mr. Bright, except that I have never prepared elaborate perorations; but I am inclined to believe that such careful perorations are very effective. A great change has come over the public taste, especially in London. The old, highly finished rhetoric is out of date. Simplicity, flexibility, spontaneity, and earnestness command the ear of the public now. For the highest success there must be a sense of humour and a sense of the sacred unseen. Young men could not have a better guide than Mr. John Bright.

THE REV. W. J. DAWSON (Wesleyan; Glasgow).

Mr. Bright's remarks on public speaking greatly interested me, and I shall be happy to say anything that I can as to my own methods of preparation, although I can hardly hope that what I say will be of much value to others. When I first began to practise public speaking I usually wrote everything and learned it, but I soon discovered that this was an unbearable drudgery. I thereupon entirely reversed my method, and used only slight notes, trusting myself to the occasion for the words in which to clothe my thoughts. After a while I found in addresses, like sermons, where the theme does not vary much, and which have to be spoken to the same congregation at regular intervals, this mode of preparation was insufficient to secure freshness of thought and speech. The danger of repetition, especially to a very young speaker as I was, was too great for the method to be wholly satisfactory. I have therefore gradually come to adopt three different methods for the three different occasions of public speaking which occur to me:—(1.) For sermons I usually write almost everything, or use very wide notes, and whatever I write goes into the pulpit with me. But I do not read what I have written. The fact that it has been written on the Saturday night leaves so fresh an impression of it on the memory that little more is needed than occasional glances at the MSS., and if I am at ease with my audience I can at any moment leave the MSS. and interpolate fresh matter, or seize upon the suggestion of the moment. In an address which perpetually traverses familiar themes, and where lucidity and precision of statement are necessary, this seems to me the best method. I may add that the concluding passages of the sermon are never written, and illustrations are left to the moment for their formal clothing of words. (2.) In all platform speeches I have substantially adopted Mr. Bright's plan. I never go to a meeting with a prepared speech. My notes are rapidly written on the platform from a mass of cognate facts and material which I carry with me. The remarks of previous speakers often suggest the form of the address. And here again, when I am at ease with my audience, I often put my notes in my pocket when half-way through my speech, and follow the impulse and enthusiasm of the moment. When I am able to do this I am conscious most fully of the true joy and exhilaration of public speech. But of course I am not able always to indulge in purely extemporaneous speech. Any coldness in the audience, or any want of confidence in myself, instantly flings me back on my notes. (3.) In public lecturing I adopt a third method. I usually make laborious preparation, and write with the utmost care. Having done this I then take a careful analysis of the MSS. and lecture from the analysis. I do not learn the lecture, but of course the closeness of the preparation renders it easy to retain not merely the form of the written paragraphs, but the very phrases. When a lecture has been delivered many times it undergoes great alterations, and some of the passages that become most familiar owe their origin to the impulse of the moment. Anything that suggests itself in this way is usually retained if it seems worth preservation. The advantage of this method to me is that I do not read my lectures. I do not need to do more than glance occasionally at the notes for a date or a number. I deliver them.

Perhaps I may be permitted to add that I have found one of the great difficulties of public speaking to be in voice management. Very few buildings are acoustically good. I have spoken in large halls seating 3,000 people with ease to myself and little physical exhaustion, because the acoustics were good and the hall full; and I have been greatly exhausted in small halls not seating more than 300 to 500, because the acoustics were execrable. To adapt the voice to the audience and the hall is one of the most difficult arts of public speaking. It can only be attained by patience and practice. The great secret is in perfect clearness of enunciation, and personal confidence.

DR. PARKER (City Temple).

In response to your inquiry I cannot do better than confine myself, as Mr. Bright has done, to the method found to be most useful in my own case. As a young minister I wrote out my sermons word for word, and so familiarized myself with them that I could use the paper without the faintest appearance of reading. This practice I pursued for probably ten years. Then I came to the sketching out of a course of thought, leaving the words to come under the excitement of the occasion. The people liked this method better than the former, as it was supposed to be freer, brighter, stronger, and altogether more effective. What was lost in literal nicety and variety was made up in buoyancy and directness. Since that time I have hardly varied the plan, the variations occurring upon occasions of more than usual importance, and then resorted to rather to give assurance to timid and neat-minded committees that nothing particularly interesting or distressing would be said than to gratify any feeling on my own part. When speaking in the name and interests of a society it is of infinite importance to say nothing that anybody can remember, and to say that nothing with tremendous feebleness. In that case the speaker is sure of a cordial and unanimous vote of thanks. Speaking in my own pulpit, and with such measure of independence as is created by intense conviction, I leave all words to come as they may. I hardly ever know one single sentence I am going to utter. I know the text, the meaning of the text as explained by competent expositors, and the practical purpose I have in view; then, weather permitting, I get along as well as I can, and I know, by the people's way of singing the last hymn, whether they have had a comfortable passage. To young speakers I recommend industrious and most critical writing, and I exhort them to be very careful before venturing upon extemporaneous ways. As to public utterances, there is only one thing I am more afraid of than extemporaneous speaking, and that is extemporaneous thinking. A sermon is not necessarily profound because it is written. Even a leading article may be extemporaneous—written *currente calamo*, rattled off in no time, and forgotten with base ingratitude. Extemporaneous speaking is not necessarily thoughtless speaking. Never should tiros in eloquence forget that there are extemporaneous listeners as well as extemporaneous speakers. They must be pleased for the moment, or for the moment they must be excited; for more than a moment they do not care to expend upon any man or any subject. If any one would excel in useful public speaking he must (1) have something to say, (2) say it audibly and tersely, (3) say it as if he meant it, and (4) not care one button for pedants, critics, and purists.

A "HOME COLONY" IN THE HEBRIDES.

By the Rev. Hubert V. Mills.

For nine months of the year the little island of St. Kilda, with its population of men, women, and children—seventy-eight persons altogether—is shut off from the rest of the civilized world. Although it lies within two hundred miles of Glasgow a letter posted in October would probably have to wait until June for the next mail. It is, in consequence, a self-contained community, independent of commerce. The people live upon the food produced on the island; they keep a flock of sheep, and comb, and spin, and weave their own wool; the island furnishes them with peat for fuel, and from the fulmar petrel, a bird which frequents the coast, they obtain an oil which burns clearly in their lamps. Here in regular use is the most ancient method of carding wool, the most primitive spinning wheel and loom. I saw bottles made from the intestines of cows, from the stomachs of the gannet, and from the skins of dogs; and the lamps are such as the ancient Greeks used, a small vessel shaped like a cream jug suspended by a chain, having a wick running down the spout into the oil. Newspapers very seldom arrive here; there is no post-office; there is no shop for the sale of articles of any kind. The conditions of life have changed greatly in England since the beginning of this century; and he who would see a survival of all that was wholesome in the life of the working class in the pre-commercial days, mingled with a strong flavour of communism, must go to this lonely island and observe the lives of these people. Money is very little used on the island; the rent is paid in kind. The laird, McLeod of McLeod, receives for the whole island, feathers, sheep, butter, and gannets to the value of about £60 annually. The rents are assessed not upon the extent of the holdings (there are no separate holdings) but upon the number of sheep and oxen owned by the men and permitted to graze upon the island. There is scarcely any division of labour. Two youths about eighteen years of age assured me that they were able themselves to "pluck" the wool from the back of the sheep, to card it, to spin it, to weave it, to mill it, and to make a suit of men's clothing! But this is not all: every man on St. Kilda is a good farmer, a weaver, a tailor, a shoemaker, and a fisherman; but most of all he prides himself on his skill in scaling the precipices and catching wildfowl, an occupation requiring great patience, the utmost care, and a knowledge of the habits of the various birds. The people are exceedingly well fed and well clad, and they are not over-wrought. A youth who went to Glasgow to see the Exhibition expressed his astonishment to me that a working man in Glasgow with whom he had taken lodgings had to rise at five o'clock in the morning in order to go to his work—"They did not need to work so long and so hard in St. Kilda," he said.

The island has its Parliament, which meets almost every morning. It has more than manhood suffrage; for every man on the island is a member of this council, and takes part in the debates. The discussions have a much more direct bearing on the welfare of the people than those which occupy many columns of the *Times*. Parliament meets in the open air; there is not one superfluous officer; there are no easy chairs provided; and in consequence of these things the daily work of the council is over within ten minutes! And yet ten minutes is long enough sometimes for three or four expressive and vehement speeches before the voting comes. After the voting there is the most cordial co-operation. They have a deep respect for the majority vote. All the business of the community is settled here. Shall we work upon the land to-day? Shall we go fishing? Shall we weave or work indoors? Shall we go into the rocks to catch the guillemots, the fulmars, or the gannets? These are the kind of questions which are discussed in this assembly. Foreign policies and Rules of Procedure are left to take care of themselves. The communistic habits of the people are shown in their working always at the same time at one occupation, and in several instances dividing equally the results of the day's labour. There are four boats, which are the common property of the islanders. The fish taken during the day's toil are equally shared on the return of the party. Of the wild birds on the island the gannet and the fulmar-petrel are equally divided among the sixteen families. Puffins, however, are always claimed by the men or women who catch them. The fulmar-petrel is particularly valuable to these people: they are very fond of its flesh as an article of food, and they preserve large quantities for consumption during the winter; with the feathers of the bird they pay the rent of their land; and lastly, the bird secretes a kind of oil, which if possible it will squirt into the face of the cragsman who attempts to take the bird captive. This oil they use for their lamps in winter. They keep on the island an average of about forty head of cattle and nearly 1,000 sheep; they never sell either sheep or wool, but every year they are ready to sell a certain quantity of tweed cloth at three shillings a yard, which has been woven on the island. With such rude machinery as they possess, they begin during the winter, and they convert all their wool into woven material within two months, and most of their garments are made at this season. There is forty acres of arable land on the island, which they cultivate entirely by the spade; the crops raised are oats and potatoes. I turned up the soil in a potato field, and found it a light rich black loam, and the potatoes were a good size, although they were not quite ready for gathering.

The fact of these people being able easily to provide for their families a plentiful supply of food and clothing in spite of their northern position their rude appliances and their brief summer is valuable evidence in favour of the scheme of home colonization, which proposes to organize village communities in England for the employment of the able bodied poor, for the products of whose labour the "markets" of the commercial world make no demand. We have men as intelligent, as strong, as industrious; we have women as brave and as patient; and we have land far richer, which once was laden with plentiful harvests, and which is now abandoned and desolate. Surely the day has arrived when the first village of 100 acres shall be established, and the question be put to the test of actual effort. In London I have been met constantly with the objection that in such a village, where work is to be done chiefly to supply the needs of the village, there will be a great lack of excitement; that men and women who have no gaslights, no beer-house, and no music-hall, will die of inanition. It never seemed to me necessary to curtail the real enjoyments of working people. They who laugh merrily and honestly always work heartily. Much of the craving for wild excitement which assuredly exists among the working class is due to the fact that their daily employment is made monotonous through the subdivision of their labour. The people of St. Kilda need nothing for the mere sake of variety. They are religious; and on the Sabbath "no manner of work is done:" there is a complete break in the ordinary life of the people on that day. Beyond this there is no variety except that which the daily work of the island brings. But it should be remembered that a piece of work begun and finished by the same man is more than interesting—it is absorbing. And to pass from the weaving of cloth to the planting of oats is a change so great that the work becomes a holiday as real as hop-picking is to the London rough. In the home colony we shall doubtless lose some of the advantages which modern machinery and wholesale production have brought about. We need not, however, lose many of these advantages. And we shall assuredly gain, in the certainty wherewith the honest man shall always have enough and to spare for his family, as in the old times, and in the more varied life and the free open-air occupations which bring men and women in daily contact with nature.

CORRESPONDENCE.

"THE SHIVERERS OUTSIDE THE DOCK GATES."

To the Editor *of the* Pall Mall Gazette.

Sir,—As a subscriber to the funds of the Tea Operatives and General Labourers' Association from its inception, though not myself a docker, I read with interest your article of last night on "The Shiverers Outside the Dock Gates." You say: "Just now the heaviest grievance pressing on the men, apart from the general grievances that press on all labour, is the system of contracting and sub-contracting;" and you state how this sweating system works. The Lords' Committee on the Sweating System declines to hear evidence as to the dock contractors and their men. But surely the wrongs of the English labourers are as much a proper subject for inquiry as those of the foreign boot-finishers and tailors. I trust that your account of the sweating in the docks will lead to the investigation of this subject.—Yours faithfully,

D. F. S.

October 25.

KING MILAN'S DIVORCE.

To the Editor *of the* Pall Mall Gazette.

Sir,—King Milan's conduct is all the baser because it is so opposed to the morals of the Servian nation. In their domestic and sexual relationships the people of this small kingdom set an example to those of some larger ones. Marriage among them is not an unsuccessful institution. Except among the foreign population of Belgrade illegitimacy is but a very small percentage, and infanticide almost unknown. Divorce is permitted on other grounds than infidelity of either spouse, and is of such comparative rarity as to give rise to no scandal. The Synod and Consistory have accordingly proved as refractory in the present instance as the English Universities under the orders of their Tudor Sovereign. Nor will it be possible for the Servian despot to cover his turpitude by an *ex post facto* law such as that which Henry, wishing to make his crime appear an act of righteousness, has left in the shape of a prohibition of marriage with a late wife's sister, as a legacy to so many suffering generations of Englishmen.—I am Sir, your obedient servant,

T. Paynter Allen

STATUES AND FEES IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

To the Editor *of the* Pall Mall Gazette.

Sir,—Much has been said of late about the injustice of the "fees" attending the erection of monuments in Westminster Abbey. Is it not, perchance, fortunate that these "fees" have been large? Otherwise the available space for monuments to the illustrious dead would have been by this time nil. That these "fees" should be proportionate to the size of the monument is just, and should, I think, be heavy enough to be prohibitive in a case where the scale of the proposed statue or bust is larger than that of nature. Why we should continue to destroy the beauty of that most venerable Gothic interior by putting statues 8 ft. 6 in. in height therein, is difficult to say. It is at any rate a lasting monument in itself to the ill taste, not so much of the sculptors as of those people who employ them. Prior to the eighteenth century it was the custom to make the figures in the monuments not larger than nature. This was deemed sufficient for the Plantagenet monarchs, and even for Tudor Elizabeth, and ought, one might have thought, to have been so for Mr. Canning and his successors. Statues of the scale of these latter would be all very well in St. Paul's Cathedral, where the classic character of the building permits of the "heroic" scale; but in the Abbey they are an anachronism, for which future generations will have good reason to laugh at us.—Yours faithfully,

Hamo Thornycroft

Oct. 25.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

The Pope has lost no time in proclaiming to the world his dissatisfaction with his recent visitor from Germany. The medium was a somewhat odd one. Imagine the successor of Hildebrand selecting the anonymous interviewer of the Jew Mr. Levi Lawson as the channel through which to inform the German Emperor that the Head of the Catholic Church is prepared for battle. There is a distinctly militant ring about the following passage:—

The German Government desires to keep in its own hands the exclusive instruction of Catholic children. To this I cannot consent. The teaching rights of the Church must be recognized, and their exercise must be duly authorized by the State. With less than this I may not be satisfied; and, as you know, when the Pope is dissatisfied, the Catholics are discontented.

The Pope, no doubt, is still smarting from the cunning trick played him by the Emperor, who "interrupted me just as I was beginning my discourse by calling in his brother in order to present him to me. I had much to say, but after that I had no further opportunity of speaking privately to him," as no doubt it was carefully arranged that he should not have. But is it quite in keeping with the dignity of the Holy See to speak out so publicly by such a medium to an Emperor? The Pope, Cardinal Manning used to say, must never be interviewed. But now that the interviewer penetrates the Vatican, and the Pope confides the secrets of his policy to a stray journalist from Fleet-street, why need minor potentates stand so much upon their dignity?

Queen Nathalie has formally notified the apostate Archbishop that she regards his decree as null and void and without legal value. Her miserable husband has followed up his outrage on the Church by the degradation of its Metropolitan, by deposing two bishops who were brave enough to let it be known that they were aghast at his high-handed violation of the laws of God and man. The Queen is going to St Petersburg, where she will be treated as befits her rank. As for Milan, the sooner he is deposed in favour of his son the better for all concerned.

Mr. Price Hughes, Mr. Pearse, and the energetic band of men and women who have supported them in the Wesleyan West Central Mission will deserve the hearty congratulations which they will receive to-night on the occasion of their first anniversary, which is to be celebrated at St. James's Hall. There have been many "missions" before, but never has a strait-laced sect like the Wesleyans condescended to lay siege to the strongholds of iniquity by so sensible and systematic a utilization of the secular agencies. The Kingdom of Heaven, it may be objected, cometh not by fiddling; but in this sombre and sober world it is a distinct gain to have the fiddlestick recognized even by the Wesleyans as a possible means of grace. When the West Central Mission commenced, most people shrugged their shoulders, and the most sanguine well-wishers doubted. But the socialization of Christian activity has achieved a great success, and there seems to be no reason why the Mission should not multiply itself indefinitely throughout Christendom.

By way of making Ireland peaceful, the landlords are sprinkling their estates in the south and west with Orangemen from Ulster. As every one of these immigrants will have to go armed, and as they will be rigorously boycotted by the indigenous population whose holdings they have grabbed, the latest move of the Property Defence Association must occasion Mr. Balfour some anxiety. It is the latest attempt to revive the plantation policy on a scale that is enough to irritate but not to crush the spirit of the Irish. The Pope will hardly welcome the outcome of Monsignor Persico's mission, but that is the only redeeming feature of the business. It may possibly teach Infallibility a lesson of which Infallibility seems to stand sorely in need.

It is lucky for Sir John Lubbock's purse and reputation that he does not treat figures in banking and science as he treats them in politics. A more ludicrous instance of cooked statistics than is afforded by his speech at Ramsgate last night we have never come across even in the records of Proportional-Representationist-Unionists. Here is part of what he said, quoted from the *Morning Advertiser*:—

In 1888, 80 seats out of the 100 in Ireland were contested, and, according to the figures given by the Irish Loyal and Patriotic Union, out of 590,000 electors the Home Rulers received 300,000 votes, the Unionists 150,000, and 145,000 electors did not vote. He (Sir John) thought they might reasonably conclude that a majority of them were Unionists, but even taking the votes actually recorded, the Unionists amounted to one-third of the population.

Sir John no doubt said "in 1885," but the reporter may well have been puzzled, for of course he ought to have taken 1886. Next, why in the world should it be assumed that a majority of the non-voters were Unionists when the prevailing majority was Parnellite? And, next, what sense is there in including the non-voters in contested constituencies (about whose opinions nothing certain is known) and excluding those in non-contested constituencies (whose opinions are known for certain from those of the unopposed members)? Of such members nineteen were Parnellites and five were Unionists. Sir John calmly ignores this factor altogether. But the best *reductio ad absurdum* of his speech is unconsciously afforded by the *Daily Chronicle*, which summarizes his argument as follows:—

He thought (after quoting figures) that they might reasonably conclude that a majority of the Irish were Unionists.

A report comes from India that Colonel Wilkinson, lately serving under the Bengal Government, has been appointed assistant to Mr. Monro in his new position at the Home Office. As we mentioned in our articles on the Metropolitan Police, the late Director of the Criminal Investigation Department is himself an old Anglo-Indian official.

Here is a curious contrast given by some well-known land agents between the value of land in England and Australia respectively. The sum of £50,000 will buy:—

IN AUSTRALIA.	IN ENGLAND.
Twenty-six miles from Melbourne, a plot of land, comprising 500 acres of poor soil, with a nice cottage on it.	Thirty miles from London, a magnificent estate of 1,550 acres, with a really grand old mansion (built by an eminent historical personage), a deer park, walled gardens, lawns, terraces, cedars, six park lodges.

A good many people, in a good many walks of life, will have much fellow-feeling for "an old man with white hair and beard, who was described on the charge-sheet yesterday as a schoolmaster having no home, and was charged with placing himself in a position to gather alms at St. George's-place, Knightsbridge." His offence was that "he made his way slowly along the roads, singing a doleful refrain;" and his excuse was as follows:—

He said he sang the best of ballads in the English language, but he preferred reciting Shakspeare if he could only get an appreciative audience. Shakspeare did not always pay, but everybody understood a song.

How precisely that sums up the situation of all who "see the highest and approve it, but follow the lower"—because it pays. And before an austere public flings the first stone at such offenders, should it not inquire whose fault it is that "Shakspeare does not pay"?

"Un Fils de Famille," produced at the Royalty yesterday evening, may rank with "Mdlle. de la Seiglière" among the most delightful of French comedies. It lacks the literary merit of M. Sandeau's play, but has all its vivacity and kindliness. In England we know it through Mr. Godfrey's exceedingly skilful adaptation, "The Queen's Shilling," one of the most popular plays in the Hare-Kendal repertory. M. Lafontaine's performance of the martinet Colonel (his original character) is altogether admirable, and, in the last scene, touching. It is very different from Mr. Hare's, and (if we must make the comparison) it is on the whole better, being drawn in broader touches and with a freer hand. Mdme. Jane May seems decidedly puny in Mrs. Kendal's part; but M. Bréant plays Mr. Kendal's part with a good deal of spirit, and M. Schey is delightful as the old quartermaster who gets so terribly mixed in his (orthographical) *liaisons*. Can nothing be done, we wonder, to make the *invités* of the second act a trifle less grotesque?

Here is the description given by a correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* of "sport" as understood by the "gentlemen" who follow Her Majesty's staghounds:—

Released at Ascot, the noble creature gave chase for some time, then making for Winkfield, finding herself hard pressed, took refuge in the middle of a pond just outside that village. Located there, with a certain sense of security, she would not move. Loud shouts and the use of the lasso were in vain; then the huntsmen sent three hounds into the pond to attack her. The poor beast made a good fight even against such odds, and held her own. Seeing this, the whole pack were set upon her, as if with one bold united effort to dislodge the enemy. They attacked her in the most savage manner, and her fearful agony was intensely painful to witness, still she made a desperate effort for dear life. At length, overcome from pain and exhaustion, she yielded to her assailants, and succumbed. Then the creature was dragged ashore, still breathing, and stuck, and upon examination was found in places to be literally perforated with the teeth of the hounds.

When school boys torture a cat, they are sentenced to some three weeks' imprisonment. Every one of the "gentlemen" who instigated, aided, or abetted the above piece of "sport" should promptly be laid by the heels and given three months.

THE PARNELL COMMISSION,

SKETCHES IN COURT BY OUR SPECIAL ARTIST.

Judges Hannen, Day & Smith on the Parnell Commission
Mr Michael Davitt
Mr Biggar
Mr Cunningham Secretary
Countess Tolstoi
Mr Justice Kay on the Bench
Mr Phil Callan
Seen at the Dublin Corporation Law Courts
Sir Charles Russell
Mr C.S. Parnell
Sir Richard Webster Opening the Case for the Times
Mr George Lewis
Mr Labouchere
Special Sketches at the Commission
Penman

NEW BOOKS.

The County of Middlesex.

"Middlesex County Records." Edited by J. Cordey Jeaffreson. Third volume. (Middlesex County Records Society.) Mr. Jeaffreson is carrying on with diligence his editorial work. The volume before us includes the reign of Charles I., the period of the Commonwealth, and the first seven years of the (*de facto*) reign of Charles II., a little more than forty years in all. He notes in his preface some remarkable facts. One is the fall of the "penal death-rate" from an average of 73.6 in James I.'s time to 45 in the time of his successor, a fall which reached its deepest point in the Civil War, when, as Mr. Jeaffreson puts it, "the war provided employment for many men, who, if they had not been fighting for the King or Parliament, would have been living as highway robbers, burglars, or pickpockets." The general continuity of life, undisturbed by the transference of power from King to Parliament, and from Parliament to Protector, is curiously shown in these entries. London continued much the same place through all the changes. The Great Plague and the Great Fire are the chief events in this period, and both are commemorated in various entries. The Plague caused something like a justitium, no sessions being held for several months, and the Fire a panic, while robberies committed under cover of the confusion are, of course, common. Altogether we get many interesting glimpses into the life and thought of the time from these records.

"Cyclopedia of Painters and Paintings."

The effects of the taste of American buyers upon art may be distinctly traced in the "Cyclopedia of Painters and Paintings," lately published by Messrs. Scribner, of New York. This is, we believe, the first attempt to bring together all the ancient painters of repute and the moderns of all the European countries and the United States. Until its appearance collectors of the type of the late Mr. Vanderbilt in New York, and Mr. Walters in Baltimore, whose magnificent collections are the best among an immense number of smaller ones of a similar character in America, had literally no compendious list to refer to in which they could find notices of the non-classical modern painters for whose works they were giving in many cases enormous sums. The same was true in a less degree of European collectors. All the Rothschilds will have to buy this book, and neither the London Library nor the various art clubs can afford to do without it. It is very strong in a profusion of little line engravings in which are outlined the more notable pictures, and the portraits of a multitude of artists, ancient and modern, are introduced, very much in the style of those delicate little heads with which genealogists are familiar in the "Baronage" of James Doyle. The range of the work is very wide. In what other English work, for example, could there be found an account of Faustin Besson, once so popular in Paris, and now little known but to occasional travellers who admire his ideal genre scenes in the galleries of the Jura? Here, too, you may learn all about Rico, Villegas, Aïvosoffsky, and others highly appreciated in Paris, Chicago, or St. Petersburg, though almost unknown in Manchester and London. Some omissions there are, but not many; one of them is Sir Frederic Burton himself, as to whose great merit as a water-colour painter the compilers may be referred to the current number of the *Dublin Review;* nor can we find the name of L. A. Castro, the Spanish painter, of whom there are so many examples in the collection of Cartwright, the actor, lately hung in a new room at the Dulwich Gallery. The detail of the arrangement of the Dictionary are extremely creditable to the Editor and his assistants. The four volumes cost five guineas.

At Home and Abroad.

The Prince of Waldeck-Pyrmont is lying seriously ill. The Hereditary Prince has arrived, having been hastily summoned to his father's beside.

The surviving officers present at the battle of Balaclava held their customary anniversary dinner, in commemoration of the day, at Willis's Rooms, last evening. General Sir E. Cooper Hodge presided.

Mr. Daniel Hand, of Clinton, Connecticut, formerly a merchant in the South, has given nearly £400,000 to educate the negroes in the Southern States.

Serious times are expected in connection with the Manitoba Railroad war. At the request of the Canadian Pacific Company the militia have been ordered out for the protection of their property.

The city of Cleveland has been obliged to suspend payment, owing to the disappearance of its city treasurer, who is a defaulter for over half a million of dollars.

Mr. W. H. Smith visited the north-east coast yesterday, and took part in a ceremonious opening of a breakwater at the mouth of the Tees, which has been in process of construction by the conservancy commissioners of that river for a quarter of a century.

Sir J. Lubbock, M.P., addressing a Unionist meeting at Ramsgate last night, maintained that those who really thought out what Home Rule meant would not hesitate to oppose it; and he was satisfied that it would do more injury to Ireland than to this country.

John Brown, forty-five, labourer, who was indicted at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for the wilful murder of his wife at 11, Regency-gardens, Regency-street, Westminster, was pronounced insane, and ordered to be detained during her Majesty's pleasure.

The vessels of the Channel Fleet, under the command of Admiral Baird, which have been lying in the Clyde for the past week, left yesterday for Liverpool. The squadron comprises the *Northumberland* (flag ship), *Agincourt*, *Monarch*, *Iron Duke*, and the despatch boat *Curlew*.

At the meeting of the County Cricket Council, to be held on December 10, Lord Harris will move the following resolution:—"That for the purposes of cricket, the county boundaries shall not be affected by the Local Government Act, 1888."

In May last a cabman named Crewe was knocked off his hansom and injured by a van belonging to Messrs. Pickford and Co. A jury in the Queen's Bench Division yesterday awarded him £250 damages, for which Mr. Justice Stephen gave judgment.

According to a telegram published by the *National Zeitung*, the Duisburg Tribunal, which pronounced the confiscation of Sir Morell Mackenzie's publication, has now revoked its order. As will be remembered, it was on the strength of the action taken by that tribunal that the book was proscribed throughout the empire.

A petition for divorce presented by Mr. E. G. Harding, a coffee planter, came yesterday before Mr. Justice Butt, who after hearing the evidence granted a decree nisi. Mr. Harding had found out, by means of a blotting-pad, that his wife had been writing in affectionate terms to the co-respondent, Mr. R. J. Farquharson, also a coffee planter.

While the new gun-vessel *Pigmy* was undergoing a twelve hours' trial of her machinery near Sheerness yesterday the low-pressure cylinder broke down, and the vessel had to be towed back to the harbour. Under the old regulations of the Admiralty a three hours' trial with natural draught was deemed sufficient, and the *Pigmy* was the first vessel to be submitted to the longer term.

At a meeting yesterday of the general committee, formed at the recent meeting of the townspeople, in connection with the intended visit to Leeds of the British Association, in 1890, the mayor presiding, it was resolved to form an expenses and guarantee fund of not less than £5,000, it being distinctly understood that a given portion of this sum would necessarily be used in expenses.

The Hon. W. H. B. Portman opened, yesterday, the Victoria Jubilee Nursery Institute, which has been erected and endowed at Taunton at a cost of £10,000, towards which an anonymous donor gave £5,000. After the opening ceremony, the bust of the late Dr. Wilson Fox, physician to the Queen, was unveiled in the Shire Hall.

At Chester-le-Street yesterday, William Waddle was brought up in custody and charged with the murder of Jane Beadmore, at Birtley, on September 22. The same evidence was adduced as at the inquest, without any material additions or alterations. After a short consultation, the magistrates committed the prisoner for trial on the capital charge.

Extensive purchases of horses for the British, Dutch, German, and French armies were made at the great Munster fair yesterday, by special representatives who attended for the purpose. The fair was the largest and best held for several years past, the business done showing a wonderful recovery from the dulness of previous horse fairs.

A man named John Kane met his death in a horrible manner yesterday at Foneford Colliery, near Dunfermline. He was inside a boiler cleaning it, a valve connecting it with another boiler being closed, when a man who had been employed at the adjoining boiler opened the valve—doubtless ignorant of the circumstances—and let the hot water pass into the boiler in which Kane was at work, scalding him to death.

A man named Graham was charged on remand, at the justice-room of the Mansion House yesterday, with committing the murders in Whitechapel. The prisoner had given himself up on his self-accusation. It was now stated that he had suffered from excessive drinking, but there was no trace of insanity. Mr. Alderman Renals discharged him, regretting that there was no means of punishing him.

M. Peytral, the Minister of Finance, made an elaborate statement in the French Chamber yesterday upon the Budget. He defended the financial proposals of the Government, and said the income tax would replace other burdens, and make possible the relief of certain suffering classes by the revision of some indirect taxes. Thus a more equitable distribution of taxation would be arrived at.

At the meeting of the School Board for London yesterday two memorials were presented objecting to the enlargement of a school in Hackney, and were referred to the Statistical Committee. The fourteenth general report of the Statistical Committee was presented. It was stated that in the eleven divisions of the metropolis there was now a numerical excess of places amounting in the whole to 47,781 places. The reception of the report was agreed to.

In connection with the notice of the East London Lodging House Mission in a recent issue, Mr. John Harvey, the secretary, wishes us to state, in answer to numerous inquiries, that the office is at 29, Senrab-street, Stepney, E., to which intending helpers are invited to address themselves.

QUEEN NATHALIE REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE THE DIVORCE

THE KING DISMISSES THE HOSTILE BISHOPS.

According to a statement published in Bucharest, and purporting to come from an authentic source, Queen Nathalie, on being apprised by the Metropolitan Theodosius that he had dissolved the union between herself and King Milan, telegraphed to that prelate:—"I am informed of your decision. A marriage contracted in accordance with the laws of Our Holy Orthodox Church cannot be dissolved by a communication published in the *Official Journal*. Take note that I consider your decision as null and void, and without legal value."

The prelates most hostile to the divorce were Bishops Demetrius and Nicato. The King has suspended them both from duty, on the ground of contumacy, and has appointed others to the charge of their respective dioceses. Orders were sent to the clergy throughout Servia to make proclamation of the divorce in their churches, and the Minister of the Interior sent instructions to the prefects and mayors for the removal of the ex-Queen's portraits from all public buildings. It is asserted that the divorce put an end to all the pecuniary allowances which the Queen enjoyed from the Civil List, and that she will henceforth live upon her private fortune.

In Servia the sudden announcement of the divorce seems to have been received with stupefaction. But it is as yet too early to affirm that the action of the Metropolitan will be quietly acquiesced in. All the parliamentary groups have summoned meetings for next week.

THE EMPEROR'S DIARY.—A PROSECUTION ORDERED.

The legal adviser of the *Freisinnige Zeitung* having asked for an explanation of the confiscation of a number which contained extracts from the Emperor Frederick's Diary, is reported, by a provincial journal, to have been informed that a prosecution for piracy had been instituted, in conformity with a demand of the Emperor, as residuary legatee of his predecessor, and on the basis of the Copyright Law. It is added that the document in which the demand was conveyed was dated from Florence.

SNOW AND THE SIKKIM EXPEDITION.

The Calcutta correspondent of the *Daily News* telegraphs:—A Guntok telegram reports that the Chinese Envoy has again postponed his departure from Lhassa, and will not reach Phari before the first week in November. Heavy snow has already fallen about Gnatong, and it seems probable that the closing of the passes may prevent negotiations before next spring. The new council of the Sikkim Rajah has held its first meeting.

RATIFICATION OF THE SUEZ CANAL CONVENTION.

The Imperial Iradé sanctioning the Suez Canal Convention, with the latest modifications imported into it, was issued yesterday. The Turkish Government has invited the Ambassadors of the Powers to meet at the Porte for the purpose of signing the Convention and exchanging copies thereof.

THE GERMANS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

A German paper publishes a letter from a correspondent on board the German gunboat *Adler*, stationed at Samoa, containing further details respecting the fighting that took place there in the early part of August. The writer holds the Americans entirely responsible for the bloodshed that took place, and declares that an American man-of-war distributed firearms among the Samoans who attacked Apia. On this attack being made the *Adler* sent a gunboat full of men, who landed and routed the native attacking force, the machine guns of the Germans doing tremendous execution, while the Germans only had two men killed and nineteen wounded. Some days afterwards the German gunboat bombarded and destroyed the village of Menna.

REVOLTING MURDERS IN MORAVIA.

A horrible double murder is reported from Leskau, in Moravia. The bodies of two young girls, aged respectively seventeen and nineteen, were found a few days ago in the Forest of Leskau, frightfully mutilated. A gamekeeper named Schinzel lived there, with his two daughters, in easy circumstances. The man is highly respected by his neighbours, and his daughters were remarkably well brought up. They lost their mother some years ago. Two brothers, the sons of a local merchant, had for some months past been regarded as the accepted suitors of the two girls, who, by the way, were both of them renowned for their beauty. The parents of the young men were frequent visitors at the gamekeeper's house, and no doubt was entertained that a double marriage had been satisfactorily arranged. Lately there appeared on the scene two gentlemen of distinction, a civilian and an officer, who were observed by the villagers to pay conspicuous attention to the gamekeeper's daughters. They went to Leskau partridge-shooting, and shortly after their arrival the merchant's two sons ceased their visits to the gamekeeper's. A few days ago there was a hare battue, to which both the two strangers and the merchant's sons were invited. The latter, however, refused. After the battue was over the gamekeeper's daughters were seen in the Leskau Forest in company of the two strangers, but they never returned home, and for four days nothing was heard of them. On the fourth day a peasant discovered their bodies in the forest. The elder sister was shot through the temple and her two breasts were cut off. The younger sister was shot in the breast and neck, while a wooden stave pierced the lower part of the body, running into the ground. The merchant's elder son has disappeared. He is suspected of having committed the crime out of jealousy. His brother has been taken into custody.

THE CIGAR PREFERRED.

A breach of promise case interesting to cigar smokers was heard in the Sheriffs' Court, Glasgow, yesterday. Miss Maggie Lockhead Watson, residing in Buccleuch-street, Glasgow, brought an action for £500 against Mr. William Kirkland, because he failed to marry her. Kirkland, who was a smoker, received a letter from his sweetheart, the plaintiff, in which she stated, "You must choose between me and a cigar." He selected a cigar instead of Miss Watson, and hence the action. The Sheriff Substitute decided in Kirkland's favour, and yesterday the Sheriff Principal upheld that judgment.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.)

LORD SACKVILLE SAYS HE WAS IMPOSED UPON.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26.—Referring to the remarks attributed to Mr. Bayard, Secretary of State, in an interview with a press representative (printed below) on the subject of Lord Sackville's letter, the British Minister is said to have declared that the letter from California was evidently written to entrap him, and that in a few days he expected to be able to make public the manner in which the affair was planned, and to identify the persons concerned. Lord Sackville is represented to have added that he felt annoyed, but that he did not regret anything, beyond the fact that he had been imposed upon. He understood that Mr. Bayard's declarations on the subject were approved by more prominent personages in the Government. This last remark of the British Minister is interpreted as indicating President Cleveland. A long meeting of the Cabinet was held yesterday, when Lord Sackville's letter was the principal topic under discussion.

In the course of an interview with a representative of the press on the subject, Mr. Bayard, Secretary of State, is represented to have declared that Lord Sackville had no other or better means of knowing the President's intentions than any one of the 65,000,000 of the American people, and that his personal opinion was not worth more than that of any one of them on the ground of knowledge, and much less on the ground of interest in the subject. Mr. Bayard added that it was still to be hoped that the Americans would be able to settle the issue involved in the pending canvass without the importation of foreign interference or intermeddling in their domestic affairs. The American people would be prompt to resent and repel as impertinent any such attempts, but would easily recognize the political pitfall arranged by the letter from California, with its object so plainly stamped upon its face, and addressed to the British Minister, into which he had so surprisingly fallen. Such petty schemes to break the fall of despairing politicians would, said Mr. Bayard, in conclusion, be held in their proper estimation by the popular intelligence.

THE GERMANS IN EAST AFRICA.

BERLIN, Oct. 25.—The *Norddeutsche Zeitung* this morning reproduces the Reports on the proceedings in East Africa from the German Consul-General at Zanzibar, published in yesterday evening's *Reichsanzeiger*. The semi-official organ prefixes the Reports with a few introductory remarks on the African slave trade question, in which it says:—"Only the co-operative action of the Catholic States can succeed in putting an end to this sad state of things, which is a disgrace to the century. We may confidently hope that the German, as well as the English, people will prove equal to the task imposed upon them by the sacred principles of religion and humanity."

As regards the state of things in East Africa, the Berlin *Reichsanzeiger* publishes several reports from the German Consul-General at Zanzibar, of which the aim is to show that "the real enemy of Germany in East Africa is the Arab aristocracy, with its slave-dealing interests." It is satisfactory (says the *Times* correspondent) to think that in pointing to the Arab slave-traders as the fomenters of the recent troubles in German East Africa, these official reports, by implication, acquit the English from the charge of being at the bottom of the disturbances—a charge which some writers in Berlin were only too ready to urge. The report contains a special passage relating to the energetic steps now being taken for the fortification of the town and harbour of Zanzibar. The publication of the report is regarded as indicating impending action on the part of Germany, and it is believed that the proceedings of the Arabs will lead to the adoption of measures which may result in Anglo-German co-operation in East Africa.

BOULANGIST DEMONSTRATION AT A PARIS THEATRE

PARIS, Oct. 26.—General Boulanger and his family were at the theatre yesterday evening to witness a representation of "Jocelyn." During the entr'acte some of the General's partisans among the audience tried to raise a demonstration in his honour. They were, however, hissed and hooted down, and a scene of great hubbub ensued, which was with difficulty suppressed. The demonstrations were renewed as the audience came out of the theatre after the conclusion of the play, and blows were freely exchanged between the partisans of the General and their opponents. Several persons had to be arrested before order could be restored, but the greater number were afterwards set at liberty.

THE JUBILEE OF M. DE GIERS.

BERLIN, Oct. 26.—The jubilee anniversary of M. de Giers's entrance into the Russian public service, which was celebrated in St. Petersburg yesterday, forms the subject of a very sympathetic article in to-day's *Norddeutsche Zeitung*. The semi-official organ says:—"Russia recognizes in M. de Giers the services to the Fatherland of a tried official of rare keenness of perception, unwearying capacity for work, and of an unassailably pure reputation. The whole of Europe recognizes in him a statesman who in a long career has won esteem and friendship, and to whom it owes and pays a tribute of thanks. This gratitude yesterday took the form of numerous congratulatory telegrams, in the first place among which must be mentioned a telegram from the German Emperor, which felicitated the Russian statesman on his jubilee in cordial terms."

THE ELECTIONS IN ROUMANIA.

BUCHAREST, Oct. 26.—The returns of the elections to the Second Electoral College, consisting of seventy seats, show that forty-nine seats have been won by the Government, and six by the Liberals. One Socialist has been elected, while in five cases second ballots will be necessary. The results of the elections in six constituencies have not yet been recorded.

THE FIRST OF THE BATTERSEA PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

Last night, at Lammas Hall, Battersea, the opening ceremony took place of the first of the Battersea Public Libraries. Mr. O. V. Morgan, M.P., who occupied the chair, was presented with the catalogue of the library, which contains 4,654 books. He said he did not know why London was so backward in all forward movements; but in the free library movement the provinces had been a long way ahead of London. However, they had now determined that London should not lag behind in the matter of free libraries. It was the intention of the library commission to establish three free libraries in Battersea; and amid cheers he declared the free library open. The Rev. Canon E. Clarke, Mr. R. McKenna, Mrs. Ashton Dilke, and others addressed the meeting.

AT THE PARNELL COMMISSION TO-DAY.

FIFTH DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The court met again this morning at half-past ten prompt. Two Irish Roman Catholic priests were in the box to the left of the bench, and a number of ladies were in the galleries.

FOUR SITTINGS EVERY WEEK.

The Attorney-General renewed his application with respect to the days on which the Commission should meet. It was necessary, he said, to bring witnesses from various localities, and it was quite impossible to get them all at the same time. It would be a great saving of the time of the Commission if they marshalled the evidence so as to avoid taking various districts on the same day. It would be a saving of the time of the Commission, therefore, if they met on four days a week.

Sir James Hannen said they were anxious to meet the convenience of all parties, and after some talk it was arranged that the Commission should meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. The Attorney-General also undertook to indicate a few days beforehand the district which he proposed to deal with, and the nature of the evidence, so that the other side might also be prepared, and so avoid delays.

THE DOCUMENTS IN "THE BOX."

Sir Charles Russell asked that their lordships should as early as convenient state the result of the inspection of "the box," and all other documents which were alleged to be forged letters, and which were now in the possession of their lordships, so that counsel and solicitors in the case at least might see them. The Attorney-General also asked their lordships to consider an affidavit by Mr. George Lewis with respect to certain documents. Sir Charles Russell said that there were a batch of documents which came from America to an English member of Parliament, and they were submitted to Mr. Lewis, who thought they should be handed over to the Commission. They had no objection, if all the documents were to be shown, to these being shown to the other side. Sir James Hannen indicated that he would give the matter his attention.

MR. DAVITT WANTS PARTICULARS.

Mr. Davitt said he had still to complain that he had not been served with any particulars of the charges made against him. The Attorney-General said he had undertaken to deliver them by to-morrow, but Mr. Davitt might take it that he would be included in the particulars already delivered. The supplementary particulars would be delivered to-morrow.

THE CATALOGUE OF CRIME CONTINUED: PREFATORY.

Before proceeding to make a catalogue of outrages in Kerry, Cork, Clare, and Mayo, the Attorney-General said he would like once again to state his allgeation against the National League. It was this, that it pursued identically, the same methods, with the same objects in view, as its predecessor the Land League. Speeches were made and were followed by outrages. During 1885 and 1886 the League held courts, to which they summoned people and fined them for paying rent and for other offences; showing that the system had gained the complete submission of the people. Referring to newspapers and the way in which they were worked, he said they contained the reports of Land League meetings, and often the names of persons denounced. They were undoubtedly a means of enforcing the power of the League; and instancing one—the *Kerry Sentinel*—the right hon. gentleman pointed out that it was owned or managed by one of the Harringtons. A number of persons were undoubtedly willing to fulfil their obligations, but were prevented from doing so by the League. Having referred to the interference with justice, the preventing of the giving of evidence, and the intimidation of jurors, as minor matters to which he would subsequently direct attention, Mr. Attorney proceeded to define the Plan of Campaign. At this point Mr. Justice Day woke up, and listened with considerable attention to the learned advocate's description of the methods and aims of the Plan.

AN OBJECTION TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THE "PLAN OF CAMPAIGN."

Sir Charles Russell now mildly interposed with an objection that the "Plan of Campaign" was not included either in the "Particulars" or in the O'Donnell-Walter speeches.

The Attorney-General expressed his strong belief that the "Plan of Campaign had been dealt with in "Parnellism and Crime;" and as to the "Particulars," he maintained that it came under paragraph 6, as part of the system of intimidation practised in the agitation against the payment of rents.

The President observed that according to the Attorney-General's contention the Plan of Campaign was one of the means of intimidation, and therefore would be included under the general heading, though in the "Particulars" there was no mention of it specifically. The Attorney-General, however, would have to show that the "Plan of Campaign" was included in the charges and allegations made in the action of O'Donnell and Walter.

The Attorney-General promised to do that when some documents which at the moment he had not near him came to hand; and having uttered his protest Sir Charles Russell allowed "Mr. Attorney" to proceed.

ANOTHER CATALOGUE OF OUTRAGES.

The Attorney-General then turned again to the details of the land war in county Cork. He described in some detail the fight between the League and Mr. Haggerty, of Millstreet, which began as far back as 1881. Mr. Haggerty had been singularly popular, and although he had been put to great expense, and himself and his servants to very great peril—he had been twice shot at, once successfully—he had succeeded practically in beating the Land League. The stories of other outrages followed. He mentioned as a remarkable fact that after it had been suggested in some of the speeches, that it was not necessary to shoot men dead, but that they could be shot in the legs, a number of these poor people were shot in the legs. Having described an outrage on a tenant he said this was a typical case, because, finding it impossible to overawe the men in a better position, the National League said, "If we cannot boycott and ruin the landlord, we will boycott and ruin the unfortunate people through whom the landlord is able to make the land productive." They were by that means showing that the landlord garrison could be ultimately rooted out of the land.

Continued on page 8.

Bord's Pianos. 25 per cent. discount for cash, or 15s. per month (Second-hand, 10s. 6d. per month) on the three years' system. Illustrated Lists free of CHAS. STILES and CO., 42, SOUTHAMPTON-ROW, HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C. Pianos exchanged.

FOURTH EDITION.

AT THE PARNELL COMMISSION.—TO-DAY.

(*Continued from page 7.*)

INTIMIDATING.

Evidence would be given to show the part that a number of leading men took in order to prevent the proper trial of persons or the proper execution of the process of the law. There was to be at Cork the trial of thirty men for firing into houses, moonlighting, and the possession of dynamite. Mr. John O'Connor, M.P., came down on November 29, 1886, the assizes then just coming on. It was known that there were a great many jurors who had done their duty, and in some instances—not many—there had been convictions. Mr. O'Connor thought it necessary that the jurors of the town should know what view would be taken of their conduct if they dared to convict; so the names of the persons who had previously served upon juries being known—he did not know whether the names summoned for the forthcoming jury were known—Mr. O'Connor marched with the prisoners from the railway station to the town, repeatedly stopped opposite the houses of some these jurors, and threatened them, shouting out "Down with Cork juries," "Down with English law" and endeavouring to get up what was a distinct attempt to intimidate jurors. Two days after, John O'Connor and Dr. Tanner escorted Timothy Hurley, who was charged with the possession of dynamite, from the railway station to the town. Two of the jurors who served were Croneen and McMahon, and after these trials notices were extensively circulated, boycotting these men.

ON THE PONSONBY ESTATE.

In the same way there was an organized attempt to intimidate in 1886 the tenants upon the Ponsonby estate. Extremely violent speeches were delivered by Mr. Lane, M.P., and these were followed by a series of outrages of greater or less violence, in many cases the outrages being perpetrated on persons who would not join the Plan of Campaign.

A SPEECH OF MR. DILLON'S; AND AN EPISODE OCCASIONED THEREBY.

Before proceeding to deal with speeches delivered and consequent outrages in county Clare, the Attorney-General said he would put in a speech delivered by Mr. Dillon at Keenagh, in county Longford, on the 7th November, 1886, in which that gentleman counselled the people of Longford and West Meath to do as the tenants had done in Kerry. And hereby hangs a tale. Sir Charles Russell suggested that it might be better if the speech were "put in" in its proper place. The Attorney-General did not think so. Sir Charles Russell said it was not referred to in the particulars. The Attorney-General said it was; but, being corrected by Mr. Murphy, promised that the omission should at once be supplied.

"Take care, take care that this is done," said the President, in admonitory tones; "and the sooner it is done the better."

"But if you do not intend to read it it should not be placed on the notes," persisted Sir Charles.

"Then I will read it," said the Attorney-General, with an air of resignation; "or, at least, such passages as seem to be material to my argument."

"Why not read it all?" softly suggested Sir Charles.

"Very well. I will read it all."

"Don't be induced to read it all against your will," said the President, smiling. "The whole will be placed on the notes, and the portions read indicated by brackets."

There was a further interruption, or remonstrance, from Mr. R. T. Reid, who represents Mr. Dillon; but, at the President's suggestion, the Attorney-General went on, and read selections only from the speech.

SIR JAMES HANNEN GROWS TIRED OF THE CATALOGUE OF CRIME.

The Attorney-General said he was now going to deal with the violent speeches delivered in Clare during the years 1885, 1886, 1887. There was just the faintest trace of weariness on the President's countenance, as he leaned forward, courteous and obliging as ever, to ask if the Attorney-General did not think he had already given a sufficient indication of the line of argument he intended to adopt.

"I am very much obliged to your lordship," the Attorney-General commenced to say, when Sir Charles Russell cut in and said that he would be quite satisfied if his learned friend would hand him copies of the speeches. This would save time.

"I leave it entirely to you," said Sir James Hannen, as he leaned back in his chair; and every one hoped that the court would be spared any further infliction of the Attorney-General's collection of speeches and catalogue of crime.

In vain. The Attorney-General, as well as Sir Henry James and Mr. Murphy, had (remarked the first-named) given the matter their most anxious consideration. They had selected certain counties, and he felt that he must deal with all the counties thus picked out. "I quite understand your lordships' hint," said he, "and I am willing to adopt any suggestion with a view of shortening the particular observations I intend to make." Saying which he proceeded to the condition of County Clare.

SPEECHES AND CRIME AGAIN.

The Attorney-General then proceeded to deal with speeches and crime in County Clare, and by dropping out a number of speeches he had meant to read, he managed to compress considerably his remarks. His attention was almost entirely concentrated upon Mr. Cox and Mr. Kenny, the last o whom had referred to bailiffs being "cared" at Woodford, where, said the Attorney-General, they had been "cared" by being shot. "What right," demanded Sir Richard, with a gush of words, marked equally by simplicity and indignation, "what right have these members of Parliament—powerful and eloquent speakers and men of influence as they are—to denounce the men who lawfully take vacant farms as lepers and outcasts, whom all men must avoid?"

THE MAHDI BROUGHT ON THE SCENE.

The Attorney-General next dealt with a series of speeches in Galway in 1885. They were by Mr. D. Crilly, M.P., Mr. James O'Connor, the representative of *United Ireland*, Mr. M. Harris, M.P., Mr. P. J. Gordon, and others. These speeches were principally abuse of the Royal Family, and reference was made to the Mahdi, with respect to which he said he would have to submit evidence

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The City of Dublin Company's steamer *Dublin* sunk off Liverpool this morning, after colliding with the Dublin steamer *Tedcastle*. The crew of the *Dublin* were saved.

THE LAND LEAGUE BANK BOOKS.

AN INTERESTING LEGAL POINT.

The *Freeman's Journal* publishes prominently to-day an article on the non-production of the Land League bank books by the Hibernian Bank, and the threat of Sir James Hannen to take serious notice should the order of the court be still disobeyed. The writer of the article contends that the powers of the Commission judges are confined to the powers of an English court. The greatest inconvenience will arise under any other construction of the law, for if Sir Richard Webster is entitled to the inspection of Land League accounts in the Hibernian Bank, why should not Mr. Parnell be entitled to the inspection of the secret service account in the Bank of England during the years 1879 to 1888 or of the private account of the late Mr. Forster or of Detective Mallon or any other person he pleased to designate? Mr. Parnell will have a clear case for inspecting the books of the Bank of England or wherever else Mr. Soames or Mr. Walters of the *Times* bank at, for the purpose of ascertaining the amounts paid for the forged letters at home and in America. It appears to the writer that the Hibernian Bank is entrenched in a position from which the *Times* and the Commissioners would find it mighty hard to dislodge them.

THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND MINERS IDLE.

RESOLUTIONS TO SUPPORT THE STRIKERS.

The miners' strike extended in Yorkshire yesterday, and last evening it was estimated that there were 35,000 men idle. The advance of 10 per cent. was granted yesterday to the men working in Newland and Kippax Collieries, in Messrs. Musgrove and Crawshaw's Havercroft Collieries, and in the Allerton Silkstone (Castleford) mine. Roughly, it is estimated that 7,000 men have received the advance. A meeting of the Miners' National Union was held at York yesterday, under the presidency of Mr. Burt, M.P. A resolution was adopted regretting the action of some of the Yorkshire and Derbyshire coalowners, and pledging the meeting to give financial help to the men who were engaged in the struggle. A conference of Lancashire and Cheshire miners' delegates was held at Wigan yesterday, and it was decided to make levies to support the men of Yorkshire and Derbyshire on strike. The Cannock Chase miners have resolved to strike unless their wages are advanced. At a meeting of Ayrshire miners yesterday it was stated that the masters had offered an advance of 2½ per cent. It was decided to strike unless the full advance of 10 per cent. were given. This resolution affects 12,000 men.

THE BLACK MOUNTAIN EXPEDITION.

DEATH OF COLONEL CROOKSHANK.

A Simla telegram says:—Col. A. Crookshank, commander of the 4th column of General McQueen's expedition, has died of the wound which he received in the skirmish with the enemy near Kotkai a fortnight ago. The terms proposed by the deputation from the Parari Sayad tribe, which recently arrived at headquarters, not being considered satisfactory, General McQueen has burned two more of the enemy's villages.

Colonel Arthur Chichester William Crookshank entered the army in January, 1859, and became captain in 1871, major in 1879, and lieutenant-colonel in January, 1885, his brevet colonelcy being conferred two months later. He served with the Jowaki Afreedee expedition in 1877, in the Afghan war of 1878-80, and was present in the operations in Southern Afghanistan, including the advance on the Helmund, and the reconnaissance of Thull-Chotiali; in the occupation of Jellalabad Valley, and the action at Mazeena. For these services he received the medals, and was created a Companion of the Bath.

THE MERTHYR ELECTION.—POLLING TO-DAY.

Polling opened at eight o'clock this morning, and is proceeding quietly. The majority of those who voted early were tradesmen. There is as yet no excitement, nor any display of colours. Arrangements have been made for a supply of extra police should any disturbance arise when colliers leave work. It is not anticipated, however, that this will occur. Both candidates are professed Gladstonians, but it is believed Conservatives will support Mr. Pritchard Morgan.

WON THE RACE AFTER TRACHEOTOMY.

There was a singular occurrence at Borris races, in Ireland, yesterday. One of the five horses which ran for the Adamstown Plate was Mr. Meredith's Dainty, upon which a fortnight ago the operation of tracheotomy was performed as a cure for roaring. Dainty ran the race with a metallic tube in its throat, opening at the neck, where it was fastened with a silver plate, and won.

WEST OF ENGLAND LIBERALS AND THE EDUCATION QUESTION.

Yesterday an important conference on Unsectarian Education, attended by a large number of Noncomformist ministers and laymen of the west of England, was held at Bristol, under the presidency of Mr. C. Townsend, chairman of the Bristol Liberal Federation. Among those present were delegates from many Liberal associations and the Liberal Operative Association. The president, in protesting against the Report of the Royal Commission as containing conclusions which would be disastrous to the educational policy of the country, said the present dispute was none of their seeking. Under the proposals of the Commission the development of the school board system would be hampered and restrained, instead of enlarged. They also objected to the conclusions of the majority because they interfered with one of the root principles of Liberalism—that taxation and representation must go together. The Rev. Charles Williams moved a resolution deploring the reactionary character of several of the proposals of the Commission as unjust and offensive, and urging the friends of popular education and religious equality to resist them to the utmost. The Rev. J. Hirst Hollowell seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously. The Rev. Hugh Price Hughes moved a resolution regretting that there are ten millions of the population of England and Wales still not included in any school board area, and urging that the time had arrived when the formation of school boards, instead of being optional, should be compulsory, and further, that any proposal to aid schools out of the local rates should be accompanied by the condition that schools so aided should be under the control of the representatives of the ratepayers, and that the instruction given should be unsectarian. The resolution was carried unanimously, and a rider added to the effect that they were not professing to abolish the existing State grants to public elementary schools under denominational management. At a large meeting at the Colston Hall in the evening resolutions were carried protesting against the reactionary policy in favour of denominational schools.

THE PROTECTION OF WANDSWORTH COMMON.

A deputation representing the Wandsworth-common Protection Association will wait upon the Metropolitan Board of Works at Spring-gardens, by appointment, to-day to present a further memorial to represent :—(1) That damage to Wandsworth-common is occasioned by the traffic of the tenant of the Royal Commissioners of the Patriotic Fund ; (2) that the Commissioners have assumed new rights by provisionally leasing a portion of the land held in charitable trust by them for a term of forty-two years, by the erection of a large house for the tenant with new lights overlooking the common, and by the opening without permission of a new private entrance for the tenant leading directly on to the common : and (3) that there is much need for improvements and the investigation of the manorial rights (if any) over land —formerly common land—which it is believed may and ought to be preserved to the public as open spaces. Mr. Henry Kimber, the member for the borough, has undertaken to address the Board on behalf of the association, and other members of Parliament have been invited.

A SPEECH BY JOHN DILLON.

Addressing a public meeting following a National League Convention held at Thurles yesterday, Mr. John Dillon, M.P., said he believed that there was not a Tipperary man in the four corners of the earth who did not in his heart curse the cruel and merciless fate which had never allowed him to meet upon equal terms and with arms in his hands the malignant and desperate enemies of his race He pointed out how the Nationalist movement had so far succeeded in fixing in their homes thousands of farmers who but for the agitation would have been in the workhouse, and went on to say that he thought a great deal had been done to make every Irish landlord anxious to get rid of his land. He would not, however, be a party to the carrying out of any purchase scheme so long as a Coercion Act existed in the country. He had told the Government that money advanced under such conditions had but very shaky security. Replying to a statement made by the Lord Lieutenant that many thousands of boycotted farms had been relet, he described it as a mendacious invention. Such a state of things as the Lord Lieutenant described would mean the utter defeat of the people, for with the possibility of reletting farms would go all reductions of rent, and the agitation which had been carried on would collapse.

THE GREAT SALT SYNDICATE.

The Salt Union (Limited) intends to take possession from Thursday next, November 1, of all the salt properties purchased, in order to commence its own operations with the least possible delay, and will in each case pay the amount of the purchase money into banks pending the legal formalities being completed. Such sums will amount in the aggregate to about three millions, and the "union" will thus at once start on its career. A Chester correspondent says : I learn on what I believe good authority that it is the intention of certain capitalists and landowners to immediately sink brine shafts and establish extensive works in Cheshire in opposition to the syndicate. The extraordinary advance in prices is certain to lead to keen opposition, as the Salt Union have by no means secured the whole of the saliferous lands. This project is only the forerunner of others in determined opposition to the new syndicate.

SWEATING IN THE ARMY ACCOUTREMENT TRADE.

Last evening a crowded meeting convened by the Military Harness and Accoutrement Makers' Union was held at the Nelson Coffee Tavern, Lower Marsh ; the president of the society, Mr. J. T. Morrison, in the chair. The chairman having explained the object of the meeting, which was to take measures for protection against the sweating practices in the trade, Mr. J. Corin moved, and Mr. J. W. Smith seconded, the following resolution :—"That this meeting impresses upon the workers connected with the military harness and accoutrement trade the need of the combination as a means of preventing the resurrection of the sweating system that has so powerfully operated upon their past welfare." Mr. J. Rowlands, M.P., supported the resolution, which was unanimously carried. The following resolution was also carried :—"That in view of the disclosures made before the Lords' Committee on the sweating system as affecting the military harness and accoutrement trade, this meeting is of opinion that a strong necessity demands that the Government should eliminate the sweating system practices in the carrying out of future contracts, and suggests the urgency of compelling all Government work being done in the factories of the contractor at a fixed trade rate for labour as between the representatives of the workmen and the employers, and, failing that, to impress upon the Government the advisability of employing their own workmen in Government factories at the wage rate compiled by the trade."

THE TRAGEDY IN SOUTH WALES.

Mr. Strick, coroner, yesterday resumed the inquest, at Pontardawe, on the body of John Harper, aged five years. Thomas Lott, a youth, was in custody, charged with the murder of the boy. Evidence had previously been given of the finding of the little fellow's body in the wood. Dr. Price Jones said he saw the body lying face downwards in the grass. It had evidently been dragged eight yards from a spot where there were blood stains. There was a great gaping wound in the throat, a small stab in the upper part of the abdomen, and in the shirt there was a cut corresponding to the wound in the abdomen. Prisoner, who was last seen with the little boy, told the police that the knife would be found in the window sill of the slaughter-house, where he was occasionally employed. He was committed for trial.

THIS DAY'S RACING.

NEWMARKET HOUGHTON MEETING.

HOUGHTON STAKES (One mile 17 yards).—Testator (Rickaby), 1. Leap Year (Osborne), 2. Cheroot (Watt), 3. Betting : 25 to 8 on Testator, 7 to 2 agst Leap Year, 5 to 1 agst Cheroot. Won easily by three quarters of a length ; a bad third.

OLD NURSERY STAKES (One mile 17 yards).—Emerald (G. Barrett), 1. Symphony (Hibberd), 2. Royal Gem (G. Chaloner), 3. Also ran : Carmine (Mullens), Greville (Bowen), Whiteboy (Bates). Betting : 11 to 4 agst Royal Gem, 100 to 30 agst Symphony, 4 to 1 agst Carmine, 5 to 1 agst Emerald, 8 to 1 Wynyard, 10 to 1 agst any other.

The premises of a confectioner in Pitfield-street, Hoxton, were early this morning destroyed by fire.

A Royal Proclamation was published in Belgrade to-day, pointing out the necessity for a new Constitution, and appealing for the union of all political parties for the accomplishment of so important a work.—*Reuter.*

Joaquin Portelle and John Buam were charged, at the Marlborough-street police court yesterday, with allowing wine, spirits, beer, and tobacco to be sold without a licence at a club An officer of the Inland Revenue having given evidence, the defendants were fined £50 each.

THIS DAY'S MONEY MARKET.

Half-past One.

STOCK MARKETS QUIET AND FEATURELESS.

In connection with the payments on the Stock Exchange, there is a good demand for advances in the open market, and 2¾ to 3 per cent is the general quotation for loans until to-morrow. The discount rate remains unaltered at 3 per cent. easy for three months' bank paper, some brokers doing business at as low as 2⅞ per cent. The open market supply of loanable capital is now so large that little in the way of a recovery in rates can be looked for until some of it has been absorbed in some way or other. It is thought not improbable that the Bank may have recourse to further borrowing operations in order to effect this result, but at present there is no indication of this. A renewed demand for gold for foreign account would no doubt at once have a very marked effect.

Operators are too busy with the concluding arrangements in connection with the settlement to pay much attention to new business, and markets generally are quiet without feature of interest. Consols are dull, and "Goschens" show a decline of ⅛. Home Railways are steady without much change, but there has been an inquiry for the Deferred stocks of the southern lines. Foreign Government bonds are firmly maintained, though little fresh business has been entered into, and the variations are slight. Spanish and Egyptian Unified have further risen. American Railroad securities are not appreciably altered, there having been no important movement in New York yesterday. This department is now expected to present a very quiet appearance until after the election is over. Grand Trunk of Canada stocks are dull and fractionally lower, as also Mexican Railway issues. Diamond and Copper Mining descriptions continue to receive a large share of attention, and generally exhibit an advance.

The following are some American Railway dividends :—The East Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia Railway Company has declared a dividend of 5 per cent. on its First Preference stock. The Boston and Maine Railway Company has reduced its half-yearly dividend from 5 to 4 per cent. The Eastern Railway Company of Massachusetts has omitted its usual dividend, and the Fitchburg Railway has also omitted its dividend for the first time since 1859.

The council of foreign bondholders communicate the official decree of the Congress of Ecuador, dated 10th September, 1888. It is provided that the executive power shall invite the council of foreign bondholders to appoint in this capital a commissioner with full powers, in order to arrive at an arrangement in regard to the amortization of the debt. The contract shall be submitted to Congress.

The following are the latest changes compared with yesterday's closing :—

HOME RAILWAYS.—*Improved*: Brighton Deferred, Chatham Preference, and South Eastern Deferred ¼ each, and Caledonian ⅛. *Receded*: District ¼, and Sheffield Deferred ⅛.

FOREIGN STOCKS.—*Advanced*: Costa Rica "A" and "B" ½, Buenos Ayres Cedulas "I" ¼, and Spanish Four per Cents. 5-16, Italian and French Three and Four and a Half per Cents. ¼, Egyptian Unified ¼, the Preference ⅛, and Turkish Group 4 ⅛. *Lower*: Portuguese ⅛.

AMERICAN RAILROADS.—*Risen*: Erie Second Mortgage, Pennsylvania shares, and Mexican Central bonds ¼, Norfolk and Western Preference, Louisville and Nashville and Philadelphia and Reading shares ⅛. *Lower*: Illinois Central ½, Denver Ordinary and Preference, and Lake Shore ¼, Central Pacific, New York Central, Northern Pacific Preference, Ontario shares, and Union Pacific shares ⅛.

CANADIAN AND FOREIGN RAILWAYS.—*Improved*: Nitrate shares ⅜. *Lower*: Mexican Ordinary and Second Preference ¼, Canadian Pacific ¼, Grand Trunk First and Third Preference ⅛.

MINES AND MISCELLANEOUS.—*Risen*: Suez Canal ¼, De Beers and Kimberley Central ¼, Mason and Barry and Rio Tinto 3-16, and Allsopp's ⅛. *Receded*: Hotchkiss and Spratt's ⅛.

TRAFFIC.—Mexican Central (for third week of October), 3,564 dols. decrease.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.—Market quiet, business moderate. Sales 8,000. Prices unchanged. Futures steadier than at the opening, but still one to two points below last evening.

The following are this day's 1 o'clock prices of the principal Stocks and Shares: —

BRITISH FUNDS, ETC.			
Consols	102⅜		⅛
New Consols (2¾)	97¼		¾
Reduced 3 p. c.	99¾	100¼	
Local Loan Stock	102½		1
New 2½ per Cent	94		⅛
India 3½ per Cent	105¼	6¼	
Do. 4½ p. c. Rst.	71⅛		⅜
Egyptian Guar.	99½	100⅛	
Met. Bd. Wks. 3½	111½	12	
Do. 3 p. c. Sterl.	101		⅛
Birmingham Crp. Stk.	111		½
Liverpool	110¼		¼
FOREIGN STOCKS			
Argentine 6 p. c.	99	101	
Do. Hard Dols.	70½	1⅛	
Do. Treasury	91	4	
Austrian Gold	92	2	
Do. Silver	82	70	
Brazilian 1875	102	3	
B. Ayres 6p. c.	98	100	
Do. Cedulas I.	61¼	2¼	
Chilian 4½ p.c. 1885	100	2	
Costa Rica A.	92½	3½	
Do. B.	91½	2½	
Egypt. State Dom.	101¼	2¼	
Do. Unified	83⅛	⅜	
Do. Preference	100	⅝	
Do. Daira Sanieh	77½	⅜	
French 3 p.c. Rnts	81¼	¼	
Do. 4½ p.c. Rnts	101	½	
Greek 5 p.c. 1881	82¼	¼	
Hung. Gold Rentes	83¼	½	
Italian	95¼	6	
Mexican Converted	39	¼	
Peruvian 5 p.c.	7	10⅜	¼
Do. 6 p.c.		13	5 16
Portuguese	63⅛	⅜	
Russian 1873	100	¼	
Spanish 4 p. c.	73⅛	¼	
Turkish 1854	93	100	
Group 1	28		⅛
Group 2	15⅛	16⅜	
Group 4	13½	¼	
4½ p.c. 1871	81¼	2¼	
5 p. c. Defence	93¼	4¼	
5 p. c. Priority	81	3	
Uruguay Unified	73¼	4¼	
Virginia Funded	40	1	
U.S. 4½ p.c.	110	11	
BRITISH RAILWAYS			
Caledonian	111½		¼
Great Eastern	68⅛	9⅜	
Great Northern	115	16	
Ditto A	101½	1½	
Great Western	150⅜	⅜	
Hull and Barnsley	33¼	4¼	
Lancs. and York.	116½	17½	
Brighton (Ordinary)	143	5	
Do. A	130¼	¼	
Chatham (Ordinary)	23½	¼	
Do. Preference	102	½	
North Western	163¾	⅝	
South Western	137	8	
Manchester & Sheff.	69	71	
Do. A	37	¼	
Met. Consolidated	75¼	6¼	
Do. Land Stock	69⅜	70⅛	
Do. District	33	4	
Midland	132¼	3	
North British Pref.	71⅛	⅜	
Do. Def.	52⅜	¼	
North Eastern	157⅜	⅜	
North Stafford	109	10	
South Eastern	131	5	
Do. Deferred	111⅛	⅛	
FOREIGN RAILWAYS			
Canada Pacific	57¼	8	
Cen. Pacific Shares	37	¼	
Chic. Mil. and St. P.	86	¼	
Denver & R. Grande	18¼	19⅞	
Do. Pref.	51¼	¼	
Illinois Shares	118½	12	
Lake Shore	105¼	6	
Ohio & Mississipp.	21¼	4¼	
Louis. and Nash.	61⅛	2⅛	
Mex. Cen. Bonds	63¼	¼	
Miss. Kan. & Texas	12	⅛	
N. Y. Cen. Shares	111¼	⅛	
New York Ontario	16⅜	⅛	
Erie Shares	29½	¼	
Do. Sec. Mort.	103⅛	4	
Norfolk & West. Pref	53¼	½	
N. Y. P. & O. 1st M.	41⅛	⅜	
North. Pacific Pref	61¼	3¼	
Pennsylvania Sh.	56¼	7⅛	
Phil. and Read. Sh.	26⅛	⅜	
Union Pacific Shares	67¼	½	
Wabash Preferred	28½	9	
Do. Gen. Mort.	41¾	5¼	
Grand Trunk Sh.	11⅛	⅛	
Do. First Pref.	68¾	9⅜	
Do. Second Pref.	43¾	9¾	
Do. Third Pref.	27	¼	
Do. Guaranteed	70¼	1¼	
Mexican Ordinary	43⅛	⅜	
Do. First Pref.	120¼	1¼	
Ob. do. 2nd Pref.	73¼	9¾	
Lombardo-Venetian	9	⅜	
Varna 3 per cent.	7⅜	⅛	
Nitrate Railway	27⅛	8⅞	
BANKS.			
Alliance Bank	13¼	14¼	
City Bank	20¾	1½	
Consolidated Bank	8		½
Imperial Ottoman	11 7	15 0	10
London and Colony	85⅝	6⅝	
Union of London	49	1	
London and West.	66½	7¼	
London Joint Stock	39	40	
Nat. Prov. of Eng.	43	4	
Stand. Bk. S. Afric.	47	8	
MINES			
Indian Consolidated	5	16	7 16
Mysore Shares	3⅞	4⅛	
Ooregums	1 11	16	13 16
Cape Copper	6½	¼	
Nimaqua	4¼	5	
Mason and Barry	11⅜	½	
Rio Tinto	25⅜	⅜	
Montana 5l. shares	1 13	16	15 16
De Beers	35½	⅜	
Kimberley Cent.	40½	1	
TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.			
Anglo-American	48		½
Do. Pref.	80		½
Brazilian Submarine	13¼		½
Direct Unit. States	10		¼
Eastern	12½		⅜
Ditto Extension	13		⅛
United Telephone	13⅜		⅜
Globe Teleg. Trust	7		¼
TRAMWAYS	ETC		
London Gen. Om.	185	95	
London Street	13½	14½	
London Tramway	13½	14½	
North Metropolitan	17½	18½	
WATERWORKS.			
Chelsea Waterworks	260	5	
East London	198	8	
Grand Junction	123	7	
Kent	270	5	
Lambeth	253	60	
New River, New	340	50	
Shwrk. & Vauxhall	166	71	
W. Middlesex	265	70	
GAS AND ELECTRIC LIGHT.			
Gaslight & Coke A	240	52	
Imp. Continental	210	18	
South Metropolitan	305	10	
Brush Electrical (£5 pd)	4		⅛
MISCELLANEOUS.			
Allsopp	8		⅛
Gunness and Co.	365	10	
Hotchkiss	9¼	10	
Bryant and May	13⅜		⅜
Spratt's Patent	10¼		⅛
P. and O. Steam	64	7	
Royal Mail Steam	63	6	
N. t. Discount Co	11¼	12	
Hudson's Bay	18¼	19⅛	
Suez Canal	78		¼
E. & W. Ind. Dock	23	5	
London and St. K.	49	2	

ABOUT ELECTION PROSPECTS IN BIRMINGHAM.

(FROM A WELL-INFORMED CORRESPONDENT.)

The municipal elections in Birmingham are exciting more interest and arousing stronger passions than has been the case for many years. There can be no doubt as to the real meaning of the struggle; each party is nerved to the fight by the prospect of Mr. Gladstone's forthcoming visit. The Liberals hope to herald his coming with a triumph which shall prove to him the great progress of his cause in Birmingham. The Unionists, on the other hand, are keenly desirous to inflict upon Mr. Gladstone an anticipatory rebuff, and to secure that he shall be received by a party "with looks downcast and damp," and dispirited by a recent disaster. Naturally, a defeat of the Gladstonians all along the line would diminish their enthusiasm for the coming demonstration. At present it is not easy to prophesy the result of the struggle. The Unionists are in better spirits than their opponents, as may be judged by the fact that all the seven seats which are not contested are held by Conservatives or Liberal Unionists. In the eight contests the Gladstonian candidates are in five cases opposed by Conservatives and in three by Liberal Unionists. There is a ninth contest between a Conservative and a Socialist, who is disowned by the "Gladstonian" organization. The two great fights are in the Nechells and the St. Thomas's wards. In Nechells Mr. H. C. Fulford, who was the earliest, and has ever since been amongst the foremost of Mr. Gladstone's Birmingham followers, is being opposed by a Liberal Unionist doctor, and a tremendous effort is being made to oust him. The excitement in St. Thomas's Ward is caused, not so much by the present contest as by the fact that this is the ward for which Sir Walter Foster sits in the town council. It will be his turn to retire next year, and the Unionists are now avowedly testing their strength in order that they may correctly estimate their chances of turning out the foremostBirmingham Gladstonian next year. Twelve months ago there was a very widespread revolt against an "order from Highbury" to support Tory candidates, but since then the bitterness of the struggle has greatly intensified, and the defections from the Liberal Unionist ranks will be few and far between. The Gladstonians are thus fighting against tremendous odds, for the Liberal Unionists in Birmingham are an exceedingly strong and influential party, and have their share of the masses as well as the customary monopoly of the classes. The Gladstonians are thus not entering upon the contest with very high hopes, and they will be rightly thankful for very small mercies. In four of the contested wards the retiring councillors are Gladstonians. Two of them are doomed—Mr. Clarke in Mr. Collings's division, and Mr. Barber in Mr. Henry Mathews's division, not having a ghost of a chance. Mr. Fulford will probably win in Nechell's ward, but not by a great majority. The contest in St. Thomas's ward will also result in a hard-won Gladstonian victory. In three of the wards the sitting councillor is being assailed by a Gladstonian opponent. In only one of these is there any real chance of a Gladstonian triumph, and that is in St. Bartholomew's Ward, where Mr. Frederick Impey, of "three acres and a cow" notoriety, who led the cabal against Mr. Collings on the Allotments Association, is fighting the Conservative councillor. Mr. Impey's views in the heart of Mr. Collings's division would be very exasperating to that gentleman. In the eighth ward the sitting councillor refused to ally himself with either party, and has been promptly shouldered out of the way. Here again a Unionist victory is absolutely assured. Thus the best that the Gladstonians can hope for is to lose no more than two of their seats, and to win one from the enemy in return. But that would be a great success if it were measured, not by statistics, but by the chagrin which it would cause their opponents. The Unionists are confident that they will win all along the line.

TORY DISUNION IN FINSBURY.

The Tories of Finsbury were laughing loudly some time ago at the fact that two Radical candidates were in the field for Finsbury. They were above such disunion. But now they are at variance themselves, split up into warring factions. The Conservatives of East Finsbury held a stormy meeting at the Foresters' Hall last night. It was called to support the candidature of Mr. Banbury for the next election. Another candidate, however, put in an appearance in the person of Mr. Martin Silber, and between the two rival factions the meeting came to grief. A resolution approving of Mr. Banbury was moved, and an amendment in favour of Mr. Silber was brought forward, but amid the general disorder it was impossible to put either, and the meeting ended in confusion.

MR. SPURGEON VERY ILL.

The *Baptist* says: We are very sorry to learn, at the moment of going to press, that Mr. Spurgeon is very ill indeed, the usual result of undertaking extra services at this time of the year. He has been confined to bed since Saturday, and now both feet and one of his hands are affected, and he is suffering great pain. There is scarcely a possibility that he will be able to preach either next Sunday at the Tabernacle, or on Tuesday at Wallington, at the meeting of the Surrey and Middlesex Association. There is, in fact, reasonable grounds for fearing that he will be laid aside until he starts for his sorely-needed trip to the sunny South.

MR. FORWOOD, M.P., ON THE NAVY.

Mr. A. B. Forwood, M.P., Secretary to the Admiralty, spoke at a Primrose League meeting at Liverpool yesterday. He said in years past a cheeseparing policy had reduced the amounts available for ordnance, and no encouragement was given to private firms to make guns. Under the present Government this had all been changed, and the Woolwich establishment had been rearranged on a more businesslike footing. Large orders had also been placed with private firms. These orders required time for completion, and if they heard that forts and ships were kept waiting for guns, they should bear in mind that it was the result of past, not present policy. He had the same explanation to make as regards ships. Sufficient time had not elapsed for the completion of the vessels laid down by the present Government. The vessels completed this year, and most of those that would be completed next year, were laid down by their predecessors in office, but undoubtedly they were in the forefront as specimens of naval architecture and engineering skill. What the Government had done was to hurry forward vessels to completion, believing that economy was best promoted and efficiency best maintained by such methods. The nation would soon see the advantage of the policy of only laying down as many ships as could quickly be finished, as this meant an annual addition of available ships to the navy. The desire of the First Lord and the Board was to build up a strong navy expeditiously, and not a list of ships on paper.

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THE REV. H. P. HUGHES AND THE EDUCATION COMMISSION.

A great demonstration against the majority report of the Education Commission, and in support of the unsectarian candidates at the Manchester School Board election, was held at the Free Trade Hall, in that city, on Wednesday night, Mr. J. Hoyle, M.P., presiding. The Rev. H. Price Hughes said he feared there were very few persons in this country who yet realised the gravity of the situation. He begged the citizens of Manchester not to imagine that the proposals of the majority report were too reactionary to be carried by the present Government if they allowed the Government to do so. The astute and influential ecclesiastic, who was the real author of the Commission and of the Report, wrote on a document with his own pen—a document which came under his (Mr. Hughes's) own eyes—this significant sentence, "The Nonconformists are weaker than they were in 1870." (A Voice: "Nonsense.") He thought so too. But they would have to prove that it was nonsense. As a Nonconformist he declared that the controversial proposals of the majority report were the most unjust and the most irritating proposals ever made for the concurrent endowment of the Church of England and the Church of Rome. He did not speak in the slightest degree of hostility to either of those great communities. He went further, and said these sacerdotal bodies ought to have full opportunity to crush them in fair fight. They might congratulate themselves that for the very first time in the history of this great educational controversy all the great Nonconformist bodies were now standing shoulder to shoulder. Sir H. Roscoe, M.P., Mr. Lyulph Stanley, and the Rev. Dr. Thompson also spoke.

MR. GOSCHEN AND THE WHEEL TAX.

The London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* writes:—Mr. Goschen does not yet, I hear, admit that he intends to abandon the wheel tax. The Excise Duties Bill is set down for the 8th of November, and one of the first questions—of which no notice has been given—to be asked on the 6th will be as to whether the Government really intend to proceed with the bill as it stands. Mr. Goschen may not be in a position to make any positive statement upon that matter until after the next Cabinet Council, which it is now believed will be deferred until the day on which Parliament reopens.

THE POPE'S BRIEF TO CARDINAL LAVIGERIE.

The *Kölnische Volks Zeitung* publishes a Papal brief to Cardinal Lavigerie, in which his Holiness heartily thanks the Cardinal for his efforts on behalf of so noble an object, and expresses the hope that his appeal for help will be generously responded to by the friends of freedom and humanity throughout Europe. As an earnest, too, of his own sincerity in the matter, the Pope has credited Cardinal Lavigerie with the handsome contribution of 300,000 lire, saying that the Church has always loathed and opposed slavery.

TWO YEARS UNDER THE SEA.

A document dropped into the sea in 1885 by the Prince of Monaco under the auspices of the Municipal Council of Paris to test tide currents has just been picked up in Orkney.

MR. SWINBURNE'S REPLY TO THE EDITOR.

An enterprising editor of a magazine who asked Mr. Swinburne to send a contribution not exceeding sixteen lines has (writes the London correspondent of the *Liverpool Post*) received a prompt reply. "I fear," says the outraged poet, "I could hardly undertake to supply verse to order in point of length or otherwise. In any case, I should certainly not think it worth while to let a magazine have the firstfruits of anything of mine for less than £10." This is a charming mixture of dignity and business aptitude.

MR. GLADSTONE'S PORTRAIT.—A HANDSOME OFFER.

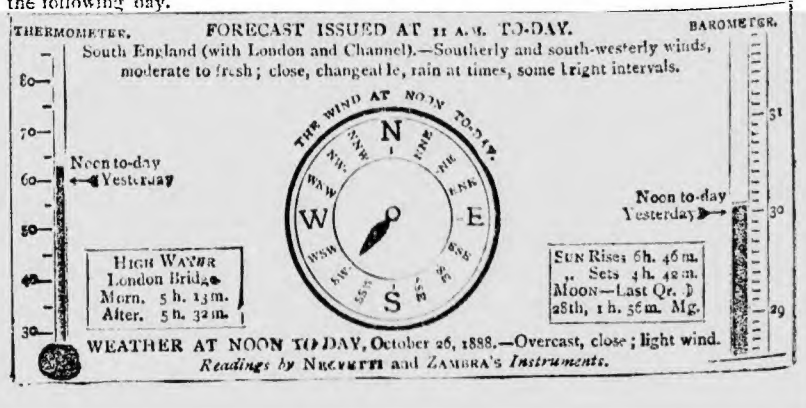
The following letter appears in the *Daily News*:—"It seems to me that the Birmingham Liberal Club ought to possess some lasting memorial of Mr. Gladstone's coming visit. Would the members of that club care to have a portrait of our great leader presented to them by one possessing an Irish name? If so I fancy a good copy of Millais's great picture of Mr. Gladstone could be executed specially for the purpose. I do not know the address of the secretary of that club, but if this should meet his eye, and he would care to communicate with me, I would very gladly send him a cheque for a hundred guineas to meet the expense.—Yours obediently, CAVAN.—Wheathampstead House, St. Albans, Herts, October 25."

COMMERCIAL NOTICES.

Messrs. Baring Brothers and Co. will receive tenders on or before Wednesday next for City of Montreal Three per Cent. Permanent Debenture Stock amounting to £840,000. The minimum price is 82½ per cent., and 5 per cent. is payable on application. Interest will accrue from November 1 next, and will be paid half-yearly in London. A memorandum attached to the prospectus states that the present issue is for the purpose of meeting bonds redeemable in 1888-89 and providing funds for important permanent works.

The Commercial Bank of Australia is prepared to receive subscriptions for an issue of £200,000 in Four per Cent. Irredeemable Stock of the Union Mortgage and Agency Company of Australia (Limited). The issue price is £97 10s. per cent. The stock will form part of the debenture capital of the company, which is limited to £987,000, being the amount of the uncalled share capital.

An issue of 4,400,000 dols. Five per Cent. First Mortgage Gold Bonds of the Union Pacific, Lincoln, and Colorado Railway Company is notified by Messrs. Blake, Boissevain, and Co. The price is £196 10s. per bond of 1,000 dols., with both principal and interest guaranteed by the Union Pacific Railway Company. The prospectus mentions that the length of the road in Kansas is 220 miles completed, running from Salina to Oakley. Applications will be received on Tuesday next, and the list will be closed on or before the following day.



AN INTERVIEW WITH THE POPE.

WHAT HIS HOLINESS SAID ABOUT THE GERMAN EMPEROR.

A correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* in Rome had the honour yesterday of being received in special and private audience by the Pope, who conversed with him at considerable length. I presented myself (says the correspondent) at the main entrance to the State apartments a little before half-past ten, and, upon giving my name, was at once ushered through a suite of stately saloons to the Throne Room, at the open door of which a Monsignor—one of the Papal Chamberlains—met me with outstretched hand and kindly welcome, begging me to wait for a few minutes. *En attendant*, Monsignor was good enough to bear me company, and to point out to me the "new splendours" of the State saloons, which have been lately refurnished in crimson and gold, and adorned with beautiful tapestries, vases, and *objets d'art* chosen from among the venerable Pontiff's jubilee gifts. The throne from which the Sala del Trono takes its name is the one presented to his Holiness by the Spaniards—a magnificent piece of workmanship, daintily carved and richly gilt. In the framework of its deep crimson velvet baldaquin are encrusted two superb agates, about the size of ostrich eggs. All the Papal attendants not belonging to his Holiness's military and ecclesiastical households are dressed in scarlet silk costumes of ancient fashion. For the most part they are elderly men, grown grey in service, and trained to a gentleness of utterance and deferential courtesy of manner which might be imitated with advantage by the loud-voiced and patronising lackeys of the Quirinal.

A Message to English Catholics.

Shortly after the innumerable clocks of the State apartments had ceased striking the hour, my summons came, and I was conducted to a small, somewhat dimly-lighted room, at a right angle to the ante-chamber leading out of the Throne-room. At the further end of this apartment, enthroned on a dais raised a few inches above the ground, sat Pope Leo XIII., his white robes and mozzetta and pallid complexion cast into high relief by the dark crimson hue of the hangings covering the walls. On either side of the throne were ranged three chairs, to one of which—that nearest to him on his right hand—he motioned me after I had made the customary salutations, in acknowledgment of which his Holiness half rose from his seat, and bent his head towards me. Then, addressing me by my name, he said: "I have been told that you represent a great and influential English journal, and that you wished to be received by the Pope. Your request, as you see, has been granted. What do you desire to learn from me? Ask, and I will tell you what I can." Upon my observing that the state of his Holiness's health was a subject of deep interest to many millions of my fellow countrymen, the Pope quickly rejoined: "You may tell the English Catholics that I am well, considering my advanced age and the multiplicity of my occupations. Yes, my health is really good, though I have had a good deal to trouble me of late, and have also worked very hard."

Literary Labours.

This reply gave me a wished for opportunity of inquiring into the nature of the literary work upon which, as was generally understood, the Pontiff had been more or less continuously occupied for some months past, and which—it had been asserted by certain organs of the press—treated of Roman history, in connection with the Papacy, during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. "I know of no such work," said Leo XIII. "If it exists, it has certainly not been written by me. My time has been too fully occupied with the discharge of my duties as Head of the Church to permit me to undertake a literary enterprise of such magnitude. Some time ago I instructed one of my most intelligent prelates to write a history of the Roman Episcopate; not dealing, of course, with any century in particular, but with all the successive periods of the Episcopate, from its commencement down to present times. That history is written and finished, but by him, not by me. In the way of composition I have had enough to do, too; I mean to say, with the Encyclical Letters I have written to my Bishops about Church matters and questions of universal importance, as, for instance, education, social reforms, and the great labour question, all of which it was my duty to deal with. On the question of slavery, for example, I have just completed an Encyclical, addressed to Cardinal Lavigerie. You may be glad to know that in it I make reference to England, which has done so much and incurred such great sacrifices to effect the abolition of slavery."

An Unsatisfactory Interview with the Emperor.

I then ventured to ask his Holiness if the German Emperor's recent visit to the Vatican had proved satisfactory to my august interlocutor. "I cannot say," he replied, "that we are either satisfied or dissatisfied with the Emperor's visit. That he came to Rome was not at our request; nor was his object in coming favourable to us, but rather to those who are against us—to those who, for ten years past, have practically compelled me to restrict myself to this palace, from which I cannot issue. My dignity forbids me to do so. This young man (*questo giovane*), having acceded to the German throne, has been making a round of visits to European Courts; and finally to Rome, where his presence was calculated to strengthen our adversaries and consolidate their position, not to benefit us. He came to see me; it was an act of courtesy, and I was glad to receive him. I had much to say to him; but just as I was beginning my discourse he interrupted me by calling in his brother, in order to present him to me. After that, I had no further opportunity of speaking privately with him. I did not find that the young Emperor resembled his late father, whom I personally knew and liked, and with whom I have conversed for more than an hour at a stretch. He was a wise and good Prince, very well read, intelligent, and large-minded. His manners were perfect. What he said was always full of good sense and kindness.

The Education Difficulty in Germany.

"With regard to our *modus vivendi* with Germany, in many respects I have good reason to be satisfied. From the German Government I have obtained many valuable concessions. Bismarck is a reasonable man; he can be convinced, and I have found him willing to accede to just requests. His son, too, who had a long audience of me on the evening of the 17th, seems very sensible and earnest. With our episcopacy and clergy in Germany all is going smoothly and satisfactorily. The vacant offices have been properly filled up with the accord of Church and State alike, and to the contentment of both. We are in negotiation about the withdrawal of the prohibitions affecting our educational orders; but there is great difficulty. The German Government desires to keep in its own hands the exclusive instruction of Catholic children. To this I cannot consent. The teaching rights of the Church must be recognized, and their exercise must be duly authorized by the State. With less than this I may not be satisfied; and, as you know, when the Pope is dissatisfied the Catholics are discontented. In the German Empire there are fifteen millions of Catholics, whose wishes and feelings must be respected. As the head of the Church I cannot countenance injustice done to those who are committed to my care, and whom I am bound to protect and defend."

Depressed about "the Young Man's" Visit.

The above (adds the correspondent), allowing for certain invincible differences between the Italian and English idioms, is the exact purport of the chief statements and observations to which Leo XIII. deigned to give utterance in the course of his conversation with me this morning, during an audience that lasted twenty minutes. I have only here set down those of the venerable Pontiff's remarks to which I feel justified in giving publicity. Whatever I have omitted has been personal to myself or to illustrious personages in England, with verbal greetings and messages to whom his Holiness did me the high honour to charge me. For the paternal kindness and pleasant geniality with which Leo XIII. received and conversed with me I have no words wherewith to express my acknowledgments. That Leo XIII. is one of the most amiable as well as intellectual of living potentates no one who has seen him smile and heard him speak can doubt. But consciousness of power and strength of will are no less manifest in the glance of his bright eye and the tone of his clear voice than is geniality of temperament. During a brief visit that I paid, after my audience, to one of the chief dignitaries of the Papal Government, I was given to understand—by delicate hints rather than by downright statements—that, as far as the Vatican was concerned, William II.'s visit to Rome had been heavily fraught with pain and disappointment. The magnates of the Vatican are downcast and depressed. They have good reason to regret the "young man's" visit, and to wish that he had stayed at home, instead of coming so far to grieve and discomfit them.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

[Publishers would greatly oblige by stating the prices of books. Any notices under this head do not preclude further review, should such seem to be necessary.]

We have received the following books since our last issue:—

Archer, William, and Edward Fuller. "The Dramatic Year." (Sampson Low.) [This is, primarily, a series of brief criticisms of important theatrical events in the United States. Articles are contributed by several hands, the whole being edited by Mr. Edward Fuller. Twenty pages are devoted to a review of the London season by Mr. William Archer, who notes the preponderance of the American element in our theatrical life. Pp. 258, cloth.]

Barlow, P. W. "Kaipara." (Sampson Low.) [The experiences of a *bonâ fide* settler in North New Zealand, with illustrations by the Author. Pp. 219.]

Bray, Mrs. "Branded." (Griffith, Farran.) [A story of a semi-religious character, the alternative title of which is "The Sins of the Fathers shall be visited on the Children." Pp. 288, cloth.]

"Corner's History of Ireland." (Dean and Son.) [This new edition is said to have been revised and brought down to date. Recent events are treated in very brief fashion, and sometimes inaccurately. *E. g.* Mr. Balfour was not made Irish Secretary on the formation of Lord Salisbury's Government in 1885. The book is not badly printed, and the engravings have merit. Pp. 193, cloth.]

Crawford, John Martin. "The Kalevala." (London: Putnam's Sons.) ["The Kalevala" is the great epic poem of Finland, and in these two volumes it is done into English verse by Mr. Crawford. The measure adopted is that of Longfellow's "Hiawatha." A critical preface discusses the poem; and the two frontispieces represent a Finnish hero and Finnish heroine respectively.]

Cumberland, Stuart. "A Thought-Reader's Thoughts." (Sampson Low.) [A volume of chatty reminiscences, notes of travel in Russia, Germany, Spain, Portugal, and Egypt, and anecdotes about English celebrities who have honoured Mr. Cumberland by attending his séances. Pp. 326, cloth, portrait.]

Eggleston, Edward. "The Graysons." (Edinburgh: David Douglas.) ["A story of Illinois," in one volume. Pp. 352, cloth.]

Galloway, W. B., M.A. "Science and Geology in Relation to the Universal Deluge." (Sampson Low.) [Mr. Galloway firmly believes in a universal Deluge, the probability of which he attempts scientifically to demonstrate. His attitude towards generally accepted theories can be judged by the way in which he speaks of the glacial theory: "It is purely conjectural, very extravagant, at variance with facts, and untenable." Pp. 167.]

Garnett, Richard. "The Twilight of the Gods, and other Tales." Fisher Unwin.)

Holland, Canon H. S., M.A. "On behalf of Belief." (Rivingtons.) [A series of sermons preached in St. Paul's Cathedral (1) Concerning the Resurrection, (2) Concerning the Church, and (3) Concerning Human Nature. The book is dedicated to Dean Church. Pp. 285, cloth.]

Lane, Laura M. "Heroes of Everyday Life." (Cassell and Co.) [Among the heroes whose daring is celebrated in this book are Griffith Thomas, Alice Ayres, the crew of the lifeboat *Bradford*, the heroes of the Tynewydd pit, &c., &c. Pp. 255, cloth.]

Lewis, the Rev. Arthur, M.A. "George Maxwell Gordon." (Seeley and Co.) [Gordon is described as the "Pilgrim Missionary of the Punjab," and this volume contains a history of his life and work from 1839 to 1880. Pp. 397, portrait and map.]

Marston, Westland. "Our Recent Actors: being Recollections, &c., &c." (Sampson Low.) [These two volumes promise much entertainment. Macready, C. Kemble, Wm. Farren, C. Kean, Phelps, Sheridan Knowles, Mdme. Vestris, G. V. Brook, Miss Neilson—these are among the stars of whom Dr. Marston has recollections. Two vols. 21*s.*]

Stenhouse, Fanny. "The Tyranny of Mormonism; or, An Englishwoman in Utah." (Sampson Low. 3*s.* 6*d.*) [Mrs. Stenhouse was for more than twenty-five years the wife of a Mormon elder in Salt Lake City, and in this volume (to which Mrs. Beecher Stowe contributes a preface) we have her autobiography. Pp. 404. Illustrations.]

TO-DAY AND TO-MORROW.

TO-DAY.

National Dental Hospital—Annual Dinner, Holborn Restaurant.
Balloon Secretary, E. Glanville, on "British Interests in South Africa." St. James's Hall, 8.
Wesleyan West Central Mission Anniversary—Princes' Hall, 12, Rev. Mark Guy Pearce, sermon; Annual Convention, Wardour Hall, 3; Great Meeting, St. James's Hall, 6.30.
London Vegetarian Society, Holborn Town Hall, 8.
City of London College.—Mr. E. J. C. Morton, M.A., on "Astronomy," 7.15.
Browning Society, University College—Dr. Blidol on "Paracelsus," 8.
Lectures.—Professor Wace on "St. Augustine," Burlington Hall, Savile-row, 8.30; J. F. Sykes on "Public Nuisances," Parkes Museum, 8.
Meetings.—Old Millhillians' Club Dinner, Holborn Restaurant, 7.30; St. John Ambulance Association, St. Barnabas School, Devonshire road, 8.
Exhibitions, &c., Open.—Italian, West Brompton, from 10; Crystal Palace from 10; Alexandra Palace, from 10; Niagara in London, Westminster, from 10; Royal Aquarium Variety Entertainments 3 and 8; Madame Tussaud's, Marylebone-road, from 12; Irish, Olympia, from 9; Arts and Crafts, New Gallery, Regent-street; Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, from 9; Armada Relics, Drury Lane Theatre, from 10; Brewers', Agricultural Hall, from 10; Turners' Company (Competition Models), Mansion House, from 10.

TO-MORROW.

Ethical Society, Essex Hall.—R. B. Haldane, M.P., on "The Political Duties of a Citizen," 7.30.
Polytechnic Gymnasium, Regent-street—Assault at Arms, 7.30.
People's Concert, Town Hall, Poplar, 8.
Annual Exhibition of Cabinet Pictures at T. McLean's Gallery, 7, Haymarket.
Working Men's College, Great Ormond-street—Mr. R. G. Tatton on "Socrates," 8.30.
Westbourne Park Literary Institute—Mr. Pither on "Darwin, 8.

"TWO NEGLECTED LETTERS OF LAMB'S."

THE New York *Critic* publishes the following two letters which, it says, "have escaped the eager and loving search even of his latest and best editor." They are to be found in the *Mirror* (Vol. 38, 1841) in a paper on Lamb's old friend George Dyer. Here they are:—

From my desk in Leadenhall-street, Dec. 5, 1808.

Dear Dyer,—Coleridge is not so bad as your fears have represented him: it is true he is Bury'd, although he is not dead; to understand this quibble you must know that he is at Bury St. Edmunds, relaxing after the fatigues of lecturing and Londonizing. The little Rickmaness whom you inquire after so kindly thrives and grows apace; she is already a prattler, and 'tis thought that on some future day she may be a speaker. We hold our weekly meetings still at No. 16, where, although we are not so high as the top of Malvern, we are involved in almost as much mist. Miss B.'s merit "in every point of view" I am not disposed to question, although I have not been indulged with any view of that lady, back, side, or front—fie, Dyer, to praise a female in such common market phrases—you who are so courtly and so attentive. My book is not yet out, that is, not my "Extracts"; my "Ulysses" is, and awaits your acceptance. When you shall come to town, I hope to present you both together, never thinking of your buying the "Extracts"—half a guinea books were never calculated for my friends. More poets have started up since your departure; William Hazlitt, your friend and mine, is putting to press a collection of verses, chiefly amatory, some of them pretty enough. How these painters encroach on our province! There's Hopner, Shee, Westall, and I don't know who beside, and Tresham. It seems, on confession, that they are not at the top of their own art, when they seek to eke out their fame with the assistance of another's; no large tea-dealer sells cheeses, and no great silversmith deals in razor-straps; it is only your petty dealers who mix commodities. If Nero had been a great Emperor he would never have played the violoncello. Who ever caught you Dyer designing a landscape or taking a likeness? I have no more to add, who am a friend of virtue, poetry, and painting: therefore in an especial manner unalterably thine, C. LAMB.

To G. Dyer, Esq., Jas. Martin's Wood, Overbury, Worcestershire.

Enfield, 29 April.

Dear Dyer,—As well as a bad pen can do it, I must thank you for your friendly attention to the wishes of our young friend Emma, who was packing up for Bury when your sonnet arrived, and was too hurried to express her sense of its merits. I know she will treasure up that and your second communication among her choicest rarities, as from her *grandfather's* friend, whom not having seen, she loves to hear talked of. The second letter shall be sent after her, with our first parcel to Suffolk, where she is, to us alas! dead and Bury'd; we sorely miss her. Should you at any hour think of four or six lines to send her, addressed to herself simply, naming her grandsire, and to wish she may pass through life as much respected, with your own G. Dyer at the end, she would feel rich indeed, for the nature of an *album* asks for verses that have not been in print before; but this quite at your convenience: and to be less trouble to yourself, four lines would be sufficient. Enfield has come out in summer beauty. Come when you will and we will give you a bed. Emma has left hers, you know.—I remain, my dear Dyer, your affectionate friend, CHARLES LAMB.

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UNCLES AND AUNTS, TO-NIGHT, at 9. MATINEE TOMORROW (Saturday), at 3 o'clock.—COMEDY THEATRE.

A Dramatic Disappearance.

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CHAPTER XVIII.

The Tragedy of Branksome Pond.

On the way to Branksome, Mrs. Costelloe told Sniff of her discovery of her husband's bag containing the materials for disguise, and the detective's mind rejoiced, for this link completed the chain of evidence that Costelloe had disguised himself in order to make love to Miss Tressilian. Following the route taken by Captain Essilmont, they took the path along the cliff, so as to enter the wood from Branksome Chine, while Major Temple, in his pursuit of Antonia, proceeded along the road, the two searchers thus entering the wood from opposite sides.

Meanwhile Antonia, the centre to which all the radii of this dramatic circle were now converging, sat alone in the hollow of the oak, thinking over her fate. She had just come to the decision that duty demanded the sacrifice of her life to her guardian, when she perceived a well-known figure advancing slowly up the path, with head bent down and hands clasped behind his back. It is always a shock to be confronted by the person who is dwelling in our thoughts, and Antonia covered her face with her hands and shrank back into the shadow, in order if possible to elude observation. But it was not to be.

Captain Essilmont stood still a moment, and contemplated her as one would a perfect sculpture, yet glowing, if that were possible, with rich, attractive life. The tree trunk enframed her like a shrine, and, to make her resemblance to saint or goddess more complete, her hat had fallen off, and her shapely head was aureoled by a dark nimbus of hair, from beneath which her brown eyes glowed plaintively, like those of a stricken fawn.

"You resemble a dryad, Miss Tressilian," he said, at length, mustering up a smile, "sitting in your leafy home."

To Antonia the smile appeared a ray of sunshine, illumining the dark recesses of the wood with hope.

"Do I?" she replied, smiling faintly back. "I wish I felt like one."

"Why, how do you think a dryad would feel?"

"Oh, free!—free as air! Free from all responsibility! Free from the obligation of making a difficult choice! Free, in fact, from all the strong human feeling that makes right and wrong, and involves us in a cloud of doubt as to which is which."

The Captain looked grave.

"You speak feelingly, Miss Tressilian," said he. "As I told you once before, you appear to have a wonderfully keen insight into the real mechanism of life for your years. I must own, however, speaking as an elder and as a friend, that I somewhat regret it, for it seems sad that all the glory of your youth, all the unanalyzed happiness and joyful thoughtlessness that it ought to signify, should be overshadowed by such deep meditations as it apparently is."

The girl cast down her eyes. Charmed, as it were, by the deep, mellow voice of Captain Essilmont, all the snakes of doubt which she had thought subdued were creeping forth into her heart, and suggesting that duty could not call on her to make such a renunciation as the past appeared to claim.

"The deep questions of life," she replied, "come to all ages, only youth is not so well able to answer them as maturer years."

"Can I help you, Miss Tressilian?" asked her companion. "Only this morning you read me a lesson on friendship and its duties, and, as you do not seem to have any friend of your own sex in whom you can confide, may I, who certainly regard *you* as a friend, ask you to regard *me* in the same light?"

Here was a new query added to the difficult questions already put to the poor girl. How could she reply truthfully, yet without revealing what she wished to conceal from Captain Essilmont, of all men?

"I would like to," she answered, "but——"

She looked up with an appealing glance.

"Yes!" he replied, as if reading her thoughts, "it *is* difficult: it is always difficult to express our doubts and fears to another person—harder even than confessing our faults. We cannot be sure of being understood, and assuredly cannot be certain of being helped."

"Oh, it is not that," said Antonia, clasping her hands. "But can't you understand, in my position, with, so to speak, a parent, how wrong it seems to make a confidant of a comparative stranger—not that you are a stranger in my mind, but *he* would consider you so."

"Can't you rely upon Major Temple, then? Surely he who knows you through and through, or ought to do so, can help you."

The girl shuddered.

"I wish I could," she said. "I want to, but he won't let me."

"Won't let you! How?"

"I can't explain it, without telling you all my difficulties, and that I can't do. But I will ask you one question. It seems very hard, doesn't it? that a young life like mine should have grown up in such a position that, as soon as it is conscious of itself, it finds itself bound by irksome ties, and burdened with obligations which, if it had had the choice, it would never have taken upon itself? Do you think it would be right to go away and begin all over again? My real life is only just commencing, so why should I be hampered by the past?"

"Many might ask that question," said the Captain, sadly, "and scarce one would get a favourable answer. We are not irresponsible units, but parts of a whole, and bound to accept the conditions which our relations to the other parts impose on us."

SAVOY.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. R. D'Oyly Carte.—TO-NIGHT, at 8.15, the New and Original Opera, in Two Acts, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, entitled THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD; or, THE MERRYMAN AND HIS MAID. Preceded at 7.20 by MRS. JARRAMEE'S GENIE. Doors open at 7.0.

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AVENUE.—NOTICE.—On SATURDAY, November 3, Chassaigne's New Comic Opera NADGY, in which Mdlle. Vanoni, Mr. Arthur Roberts, and the present powerful company will appear. All seats for the first night (except pit and gallery) are now disposed of. Early application is necessary to secure places for the second and following nights.—R. D'Albertson, Acting Manager.

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ALEXANDRA PALACE.—TUESDAY NEXT.—Professor BALDWIN, on TUESDAY NEXT, the 30th inst., will, by special desire of some eminent persons, make an EXTRA FINAL ASCENT and DROP FROM THE CLOUDS, at 3.30 P.M. Admission Half-a-Crown.

ALEXANDRA PALACE.—SPECIAL DESIRE.—Professor BALDWIN will make ONE MORE ASCENT from the grounds of the Palace at 3.30 on TUESDAY NEXT under distinguished patronage, and on obtaining a height of 3,000 feet or thereabouts will leap from his balloon with his parachute through space. Admission, Half-a-Crown.

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Antonia bowed her head.

"You are very wise," she murmured, "and I am very foolish—nay, wicked, to complain. Pardon me for trying to cast my burden on you, and forget that I have ever told you so much of my position that you will be led to think unfavourably of my guardian."

"Pardon you? Would I not give all I have to help you? Am I not given happiness by your confidence, even though it is a two-edged sword, because it grieves me to think that sorrow should ever fall on a young life like yours?"

The Captain spoke constrainedly, as if his words were wrung from him by irrepressible emotion. Such was the deep feeling of grief in his voice that Antonia, in impulsive, affectionate sympathy, put out her hand as if to take his. It just touched his coat sleeve, and he, feeling the contact, turned to her with a glance of wonder. Their eyes met, and in the mutual gaze more speech was hidden than was ever expressed in words. The girl could not control the clinging, beseeching affection that beamed from her brown eyes, and, as the Captain read them, a light broke over his face, and he clasped his hand round hers.

At this juncture there was a slight rustling in the brushwood by the pond, and, had the two not been otherwise absorbed, they would have perceived the face of Major Temple looking out from among the leaves, a pale, puckered face, of stony gaze, on which was writ large all the horror of concentrated passion. A clenched hand stole forth from the branches, and was quickly withdrawn, while the Major's form crouched up into an attitude of feline readiness to spring.

At the same time, at a bend in the path just below the oak-tree, appeared Mr. Sniff, in his Sunday broadcloth, with a smile of expectancy on his face, and, at his side, was the wild figure of the wronged wife, whose pale blue eyes dilated as she caught sight of the girl whom she deemed her rival.

The Major, whose eyes were concentrated on Antonia and the Captain as if he would pierce them with chisel glances of hate, did not perceive the new arrivals, nor did they at first note him. For a moment all the actors in the scene stood still, and so intense was the silence in the woodland that the casual fall of a dried leaf on to the oily surface of the water was perfectly audible.

Meanwhile the glow of happiness broadened and deepened on Captain Essilmont's face, until, finding utterance, he said, "Antonia! Do you then love *me?*"

The girl withdrew her hand.

"I may not," she murmured.

"But you do?" he repeated with a ring of almost boyish light-heartedness in his voice.

There was no answer, but a deep blush rose over her cheeks.

"I will be your true guardian, then," said the Captain, "for I love you, and, all my life, have looked forward——"

Antonia looked up, wondering what connection she could have had with all his life, when suddenly her face blanched with horror, becoming as pale as just previously it had been rosy.

She saw, rising from the bushes by the pond, the form of Major Temple, his pallid face compressed into one fold of malignant hatred and rage. At the same instant, she heard a smothered exclamation behind her, but, before she could turn round or utter a word of warning, Major Temple had sprung out with a shrill screech like that of a bird of prey, and gripping Captain Essilmont by the nape of the neck, flung him on his back right athwart the pathway.

"Liar! Traitor! Deceiver!" shrieked the Major, the tone of his voice quite altered from anything Antonia ever remembered, her guardian's voice having always hitherto had a tendency to grow deeper under the influence of emotion.

"I know you now!" he exclaimed. "I recognized you this morning at church, and thought I had made all secure. We were to have left to-morrow. There is a letter for you at your hotel, but you'll never read it now. Oh! no! You shan't escape me now, though you did so that night in Gloucester-place, fool that I was not to have finished you off then, or have done so here when I first saw and suspected you. Witnesses and consequences are nothing to me now! The game's up, but I shall have the odd trick!"

Thus speaking in rapid, high-pitched utterance, he raised his arm to strike the prostrate form of Captain Essilmont. Antonia sprung forward and hung upon him, trying to pull him back. "Hush! Hush, uncle!" she said, in a low contralto voice of horror and poignant remorse. "Would you make me the cause of my friend's murder? Hush! Hush! You are not yourself. I will do anything for you, if you'll only come away."

The poor girl unconsciously spoke as if to soothe a refractory child.

Hindered for the moment by her hold, he turned to free himself, and in the interval Captain Essilmont managed to struggle to his feet. Antonia glanced towards him to see if he were safe. But what was this change? The girl thought she was going mad with terror, and, letting go of Major Temple, covered her face with her hands. Were there then two Majors Temple? Had she two guardians? To her excited vision, Captain Essilmont's features had changed to those of Major Temple. His fair whiskers were gone, and his hair had assumed a more youthful tint.

All this took but a moment in passing, and, almost simultaneously with Antonia's effort to save her friend, a woman's shriek rent the woodland quiet and sent the birds on the branches above flying rapidly away.

"That, that!" said Mrs. Costelloe, running forward. "*That's* the man that was my husband, the would-be murderer! Oh, God! How I am wronged."

She threw her arms about him, like strong ivy encircling an elm, while he turned, with terror overmastering the vindictive expression on his face. Sniff, too, rushed forward to hold the man, blowing a whistle as he came to summon his attendant policemen, who, the next moment, were seen hurrying up the path.

"Major Temple, Henry Costelloe!" exclaimed the detective. "Who then is Captain Essilmont?"

As he asked the question, the prisoner made a violent attempt to escape from his wife's hold. She clutched his hair, but only an actor's wig came off in her grasp, and the quondam Major reeled backwards from her arms, falling on Sniff and nearly knocking him over.

(To be continued to-morrow.)

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11, Copthall-court, London, E.C., October 26, 1888.

The Union Pacific, Lincoln, and Colorado Railway Company is a consolidation of the Salina, Lincoln, and Western Railroad, the Oakley and Colby Railroad, and a new line, connecting these two branches of the Kansas Pacific system of the Union Pacific Railway Company, and may eventually be extended in a westerly direction through Kansas to Colorado.

The length of the road is 220 miles completed, running from Salina (Kansas), on the Kansas Pacific Railway, via Lincoln, Waldo, and Colby to Oakley (Kansas), also on the Kansas Pacific Railway. It is not intended to build beyond Colby for the present, though under the mortgage a total issue of 20,000,000 dols., at the rate of 20,000 dols. per mile, is authorized. The Capital Stock of the Company is 27,500,000 dols.

The First Mortgage Bonds are issued in virtue of a mortgage deed dated April 1st, 1888, in reimbursement of advances made by the Union Pacific Railway Company for building the road, and also for repayment of the prior bonds of the Salina, Lincoln, and Western Railway Company, and Oakley and Colby Railway Company, all which prior bonds have been cancelled and the mortgages discharged.

The development of Kansas, where the Union Pacific Railway Company has sold nearly all its land grant, made the extension of the Kansas Pacific system imperative, and caused the Company to undertake the construction of this line. It runs through a most fertile country, and is essential to the Union Pacific system.

Under the terms of the mortgage, a Sinking Fund is provided in which, in each year, must be deposited two thirds of 1 per cent. of the nominal value of bonds outstanding, to be applied towards the purchase of First Mortgage Bonds at not above 105 per cent. and accrued interest. If not obtainable at this price, the trustee must invest the proceeds of the Sinking Fund and the interest accrued thereon in other bonds of the Union Pacific Main Line or Branches, or in State, County, or City Bonds returning not less than 4 per cent. on the money invested.

The Union Pacific Railway Company has unconditionally guaranteed the payment of both principal and interest of these First Mortgage Bonds, by endorsement on each bond.

The Union Pacific Railway Company has since 1884 considerably strengthened its financial position, by applying the surplus earnings of its system, aggregating since that year about 13,500,000 dols. to the payment of its floating debt and to the extension and improvement of its road and equipment.

By the adoption of this policy the Company has been able, during the period from July 1, 1884, to June 30, 1888, to reduce its indebtedness of all kinds to the extent of 6,862,445 dols., whilst at the same time increasing its total mileage from 4,419 to 4,764, and applying considerable amounts to improvements of the road and increase of equipment.

During the current year the Union Pacific Railway Company has consequently been able to provide, out of its own means, the greater part of the money required for the completion of about 125 miles of the Union Pacific, Lincoln, and Colorado Railway, so that out of the proceeds of the Bonds now offered about 3,000,000 dols. will remain at the disposal of the Union Pacific Railway Company, which will apply the same to the purchase of further equipment.

According to a statement issued on the 24th instant by the Union Pacific Railway Company (received by cable), the surplus of net earnings for the first six months of 1888, after providing for all fixed charges and Government requirements, is 350,000 dols. in excess of the surplus during the same period of 1887. This statement further shows that the surplus for the twelve months from July 1, 1887, to June 30, 1888, amounts to about 3,500,000 dols., equal to 5¼ per cent. on the share capital.

The following is a comparative statement, per June 30, of the years 1884 and 1888:—

	1884.	1888.
Total Mileage.....	4,419.8	4,764.9
Total Funded Debt, $148,546,460.37..		$142,612,029 51
Net Floating Debt..	6,900,177.95..	14,130.15
Debt per mile	35,170.51 .	31,151.87

From the Funded Debt is to be deducted the amount of the Government Sinking Fund, in the hands of the Trustees of the Land Mortgage Bonds and of the Kansas Pacific Consolidated Mortgage Bonds, being a total of 21,705,100 dols. The Funded Debt is thereby reduced to 126,902,029.51 dols., being at the rate of only 26,673 dols. per mile.

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